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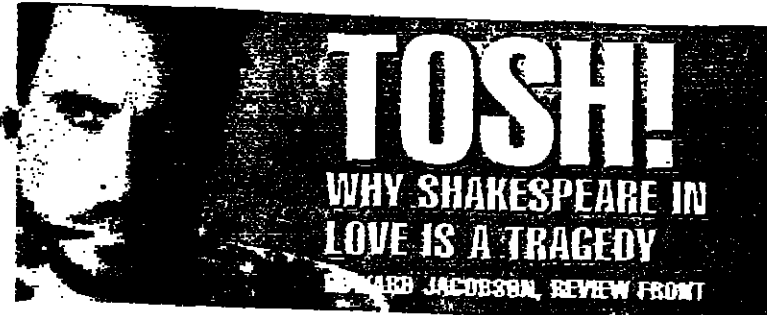
THE AWARD-WINNING INDEPENDENT: EDITOR OF THE YEAR, CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR

THE INDEPENDENT

No 3,877

TUESDAY 23 MARCH 1999

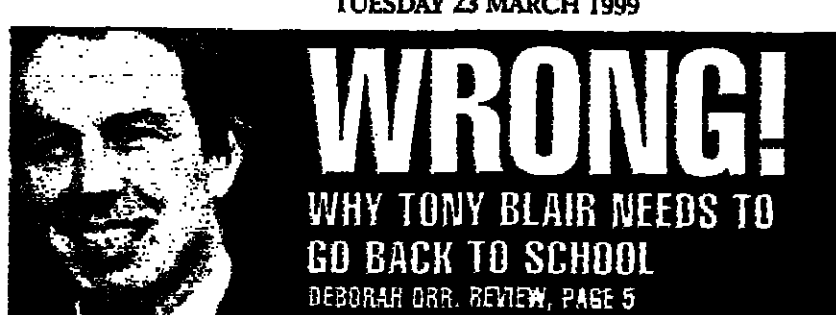
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TOSH!

WHY SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE IS A TRAGEDY

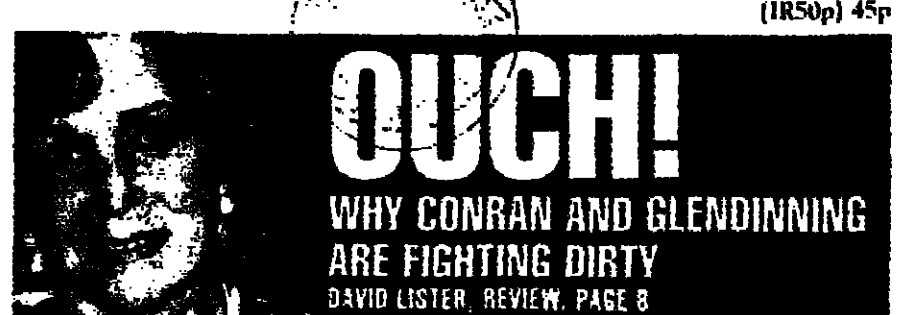
EDWARD JACOBSON, REVIEW FRONT



WRONG!

WHY TONY BLAIR NEEDS TO GO BACK TO SCHOOL

DEBORAH ORR, REVIEW, PAGE 5



OUCH!

WHY CONRAN AND GLENDINNING ARE FIGHTING DIRTY

DAVID LISTER, REVIEW, PAGE 8

Shakespeare in Tears: 'I thank our miraculous cast [sobs] and crew [sobs] and my family [more sobs] who I love more than anything'



'Thank you so much everybody...' An emotional Gwyneth Paltrow accepts the Oscar for Best Actress for her part as Viola in the film 'Shakespeare in Love'. Report, page 7

Gary Hershorn/Eric Draper

Straw halts release of IRA men

JACK STRAW intervened last night to halt the early release of four IRA prisoners including the Brighton bomber, Patrick Magee.

BY COLIN BROWN
Chief Political Correspondent
AND DAVID MCKITTRICK
Ireland Correspondent

aged 35, was given eight life sentences for his part in the Brighton hotel bombing of the Thatcher cabinet.

The judge told him: "You intended to wipe out a large part of the Government and very nearly did. I am satisfied that you enjoy terrorism."

and it had nothing to do with public anger over the early release of IRA prisoners.

Act 1998. A Home Office spokesman said: "The Government is committed to meeting its obligations under the Good Friday Agreement. The Government thinks that it is important to clarify the application of the law as it applies to prisoners transferred from England and Wales to Northern Ireland."

tonight at the European summit in Berlin. The two leaders are planning jointly to meet the party leaders in Northern Ireland to force through a final agreement, which will enable Gerry Adams, the Sinn Féin president, to join the executive of the power-sharing Assembly in Northern Ireland.

sure on both Mr Adams and Mr Trimble to give ground to avoid the peace process breaking down.

A hearing will decide today whether the four should serve longer terms in prison, after the Home Secretary obtained an interim order setting aside the decision by the Northern Ireland Sentencing Review Commission to allow the prisoners' immediate release under the Good Friday Agreement.

sure that members of an IRA sniper team, jailed last week for a total of 600 years, could be released within 16 months.

He was found guilty of planting the time-delay device which exploded at the Grand Hotel during the 1984 Conservative conference, killing five people.

Magee is regarded as an IRA folk hero for coming close to killing Margaret Thatcher, who was then at the top of the IRA's assassination list.

William Hague, the Tory leader, has called for the release of the peace process, and victims' families pointed out that IRA men were being released before any weapons were surrendered under the Good Friday Agreement.

The Government said that if circumstances permitted, all the qualifying prisoners would be released under the terms of the Agreement by July 2000. That now depends on the peace process holding together, and intensive efforts are being made to prevent it collapsing before the Easter deadline.

David Trimble, the Ulster Unionist leader and First Minister, is refusing to set up the executive until decommissioning begins but the two governments have made clear there can be no preconditions and they will be putting pres-

sure on both Mr Adams and Mr Trimble to give ground to avoid the peace process breaking down.

The unprecedented move is the first attempt by the Government to slow down the early release of IRA prisoners, and risks provoking an angry reaction from the republican movement at a time when the peace process hangs in the balance.

The commission yesterday approved the immediate release of three prisoners - Paul Kavanagh, Thomas Quigley, and Gerard McDonnell, who were jailed for life for bombing campaigns on the mainland but transferred to serve their sentences in Northern Ireland. The commission's decision would have brought forward the release date of Magee.

Judges recommended that two of them, Magee and Thomas Quigley, should each serve not less than 35 years in prison. In 1986 Magee, then

McDonnell, then 35, was sentenced to life imprisonment after being tried with Magee. He was convicted of conspiring to cause a series of explosions at seaside resorts.

Mr Straw sought the judicial review on the grounds that the commission had been wrong to assess the men's sentences as if they had been jailed in the Province. A different tariff operates for prisoners sentenced on mainland Britain under the Northern Ireland Sentences

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Nato gets mandate to hit Serb targets

PRESIDENT SLOBODAN Milosevic was given a final warning yesterday that the West is "on the brink of military action" over Kosovo. The warning came as Nato received a mandate to hit military targets all over Yugoslavia.

BY STEPHEN CASTLE
in Brussels
AND EMMA DALY
in Serbia

sadors in Brussels gave the Secretary-General, Javier Solana, the right to authorise attacks not only on Serb air defences but to strike at targets throughout the country.

THE UNITED States raised the stakes in the transatlantic trade war last night, warning that if Europe does not start importing hormone-treated American beef it will impose punitive tariffs on \$900m (£560m) of European goods.

Tim

to begin before the completion of full scientific studies on the hormone's possible harmful effects. The EU has offered to pay compensation to the US for loss of export earnings, but the Americans are demanding compliance by 13 May with a World Trade Organisation edict that the ban breaches trade rules. A third source of dispute is on aircraft: the EU has brought in a requirement that older aircraft flying here should be equipped with noise-reducing "hush kits". But the US has threatened to ban Concorde operated by British Airways and Air France.

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TOMORROW WITH THE INDEPENDENT



BUSINESS REVIEW

MAKE A SOUND INVESTMENT. EVERY WEDNESDAY

WITH HAMISH MCRAE, DIANE COYLE, DEREK PAIN, JO DAVIS AND THE TRADER

Drivers threaten to extend blockade

HUNDREDS of lorry drivers are planning to extend a demonstration that brought traffic chaos to London yesterday after they were snubbed by the Government, which "refused to be held to ransom".

Hauliers threatened to blockade Channel ports and bring other cities to a standstill after they were prevented from holding talks with the Prime Minister or the Chancellor.

About 1,000 lorries blocked Park Lane in central London in protest at rises in diesel duty and road tax announced in the Budget. A delegation from 'Trans-action', the group behind the protest, was allowed to go to the front door of 10 Downing Street but was told no one would meet it.

Frank Stears, a Kent-based haulier who led the delegation, said: "We are fighting for our livelihoods. We are fighting for the price of diesel and road tax to come in line with Europe. We have asked if somebody will speak to us... so we don't have to hold any more demos."

He said 51,000 road haulage jobs were on the line, as many as were under threat at Longbridge, the Rover car factory. "We are trying to keep British small firms and British drivers and their families in jobs

BY PHILIP THORNTON
Transport Correspondent

and prevent putting them on the DESS."

Hundreds of lorries blocked the road for five hours. Drivers and their families mingled on the pavement and picnicked in nearby Hyde Park.

Ron Wood, of RW Haulage Services of Sheerness, Kent, said he would go out of business unless the Government backed down. "If they do not listen to us we will do it properly next time - and shut all the docks, all the motorways and all the cities. If they want us to be like the French truckers, we will."

Joe Cook, of JS Cook of Wellingborough, Northamptonshire, said there would be a blockade of the Channel ports, while Peter Starkins from Basildon, Essex, said: "We will shut London down for two weeks if necessary."

The Government said it would not be held to ransom by a "relatively small number of people". John Reid, a Transport minister, said: "I am not going to have any concessions wrung from me. I have offered the path of dialogue to the hauliers but apparently they prefer the path of disruption."



Lorry drivers heading along Park Lane to Downing Street yesterday John Voos

Benefits to be held back in fraud blitz

THE GOVERNMENT is to save £1bn by delaying social security payments to new claimants in its latest attempt to root out fraud.

In a strategy document to be published today, ministers will announce that Benefits Agency staff will carry out much more rigorous checks into the background of claimants before allowing them to receive state handouts.

The controversial move could mean lengthy delays in providing help to vulnerable people with genuine claims, welfare rights groups will warn. At present, new claims take about nine days to process, but the period could now be much longer.

Alistair Darling, Secretary of State for Social Security, is ap-

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

palled that two out of five requests for income support are approved without proof of claimants' entitlement - and in some cases even without their identity being checked.

He believes the current system, under which benefit offices are set targets to process claims quickly, has added to the number of bogus claims.

Mr Darling will insist that genuine claimants have nothing to fear from his tough new regime. By giving the correct payments at the outset, taxpayers will save £1bn during this Parliament, he will predict.

The new rules are part of a drive by Mr Darling to introduce a "change of culture" in the benefits system that puts the emphasis on preventing rather than detecting fraud. "In future, we will get it right and keep it right," a government source said last night.

For example, the Government will scrap the cash incentives given to local authorities to stamp out false claims for housing benefit, after evidence that the system encourages them initially to turn a blind eye to fraud. Instead, councils will be rewarded for preventing bogus claims in the first place.

Mr Darling will also order anti-fraud staff to launch more prosecutions. At present, many

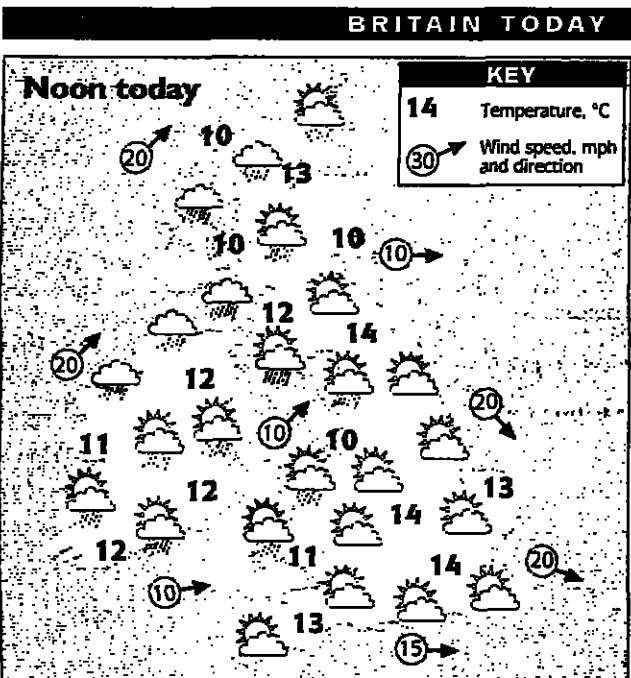
small-time fiddlers are let off with a warning, but Mr Darling wants to send a message that "crime does not pay".

In a further move, the Post Office will no longer allow Giro cheques to be sent to "PO Box" addresses or redirected to a different address to that of the claimant. This is aimed at preventing fraudsters making multiple claims.

Mr Darling will argue that Labour inherited "a mess" from the Tories, who allowed millions of inaccurate payments despite their repeated pledges to crack down on fraud. Estimates of false payments range from £4bn to £7bn, and the Secretary of State will set a new target for reducing the loss to the Exchequer. But he will admit that his measures will take some years to deliver.

Other proposals to be announced today include greater use of "data matching" between government departments, so that information held on individuals can be cross-checked. This is bound to raise concerns among civil liberties groups, as it abolishes the rule that information collected by the state for one purpose will not be used for another.

However, Mr Darling is confident of winning support for his new approach. "He does not believe it is right to allow people to rip off the system and the taxpayers," said one insider.



FORECAST
General situation: Overnight rain will clear the Midlands and northern England to leave England and Wales mild and mainly dry. However, it will remain cloudy, especially along western coasts and over the higher ground where there may be some light rain. The best of any sunny breaks will be in the east. Northern Ireland and Scotland will also be mild but largely cloudy. The east and north-east may stay dry, but elsewhere will have rain, the heaviest of it across the North-West Highlands and the Western Isles.

London, SE & SE England: Mostly cloudy with limited sunny breaks but quite mild. A moderate west to south-westerly wind. Max temp 12-14C (54-57F).
Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Mild but with patchy light rain on the coasts and hills. A fresh westerly wind. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).
Wales, NW England, Lake Dist, Isle of Man: Mild but with patchy light rain on the coasts and hills. A fresh westerly wind. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

Channel Is, SW England: Rather cloudy with drizzle on the coasts and hills, but mild. A moderate westerly wind. Max temp 11-13C (52-55F).
NE & SE Scotland, Edinburgh, Aberdeen: Mild but cloudy with some light rain possible. A moderate westerly wind. Max temp 10-13C (50-55F).

NW & SW Scotland, Glasgow, W Isles: Dull with outbreaks of rain but mild. A fresh south-westerly wind. Max temp 9-12C (48-54F).
N Ireland: Cold and largely cloudy with some rain and hill-snows edging northwards later. A light and variable wind. Max temp 4-6C (39-43F).
Ireland: Mild but cloudy with outbreaks of light rain. A moderate to fresh westerly wind. Max temp 10-12C (50-54F).

OUTLOOK
The south and east will remain mild and mainly dry with some sunshine tomorrow but there will be rain elsewhere, clearing to sunny spells and wintry showers in Scotland. The north and west will be cold with some showers on Thursday. There may be rain elsewhere but it will be mild.

TRAVEL
London: A12 Green Man Roundabout. Leytonstone. Major roadworks on new M11 link road. Until 31st December. Bristol: M5 J10-11. Major Roadworks on Avonmouth Bridge. Until 22nd June 2001. Warwickshire: M42 Between J10 (Tarnworth services) and J11 (Sutton Coldfield). Roadworks and contraflow. Until 23rd April. South Yorkshire: M1 Between J34 (Tinsley Viaduct) and J35 (Tinsley Viaduct). Roadworks. Until 21st November 2000. Gloucestershire: A40 Lansdown Rd.

BRITAIN TODAY			
LIGHTING UP			
Belfast	6.42pm	to	6.17am
Birmingham	6.25pm	to	6.02am
Bristol	6.25pm	to	6.05am
Glasgow	6.36pm	to	6.10am
London	6.19pm	to	5.55am
Manchester	6.27pm	to	6.03am
Newcastle	6.25pm	to	6.00am

YESTERDAY			
EXTREMES			
Warmest: St Mary's 11C (52F)			
Cooldest (day): Lerwick 3C (37F)			
Wettest: Alnham 13.0 mm			
Driest: Canterbury 4.5 hrs			
For 24hrs to 2pm Monday			

THE WORLD			
EUROPE NOON TODAY			
Key			
10-15°C			
15-20°C			
20-25°C			
Over 25°C			

THE ATLANTIC NOON TODAY			
Key			
10-15°C			
15-20°C			
20-25°C			
Over 25°C			

THE WORLD YESTERDAY			
Key			
10-15°C			
15-20°C			
20-25°C			
Over 25°C			

COME RAIN OR SHINE...			
WINDS OF more than 90mph battered Japan yesterday, killing at least one person and injuring many more. The dead man was one of three fishermen whose boat was hit by four-metre high waves near the southernmost main island of Kyushu.			
In China, near Tokyo, five people were blown over in the street and a man was seriously injured by a falling tree while playing golf.			

Sawoniuk: 'I'm not a monster'

BY PAT CLARKE

A RETIRED railway worker told Britain's first full war crimes trial yesterday he was not a monster who had murdered Jews during the Nazi occupation of his east European homeland.

"I have done no crime whatsoever. My conscience is clear. I killed no one. I would not dream of doing it. I am not a monster - I am an ordinary, working-class, poor man," said Anthony Sawoniuk, 78.

He was being cross-examined about allegations that he led search-and-kill police squads to hunt down Jews escaping Nazi massacres in Belarus during the Second World War.

Mr Sawoniuk said prosecution witnesses had come to Britain to tell lies about him on the orders of the KGB, the former Soviet Union's secret police.

"Everyone is telling lies. They have been told by the Russian KGB to say there was a ghetto. Everyone is telling lies. These devils came here with their lies against me."

Mr Sawoniuk added that he did not think they would probably be imprisoned for "a few years" on their return.

John Nutting QC, for the prosecution, pointed out that one witness, Ben Zion Blustein, a Jew and boyhood friend of Mr Sawoniuk, now lived in Israel where there was no KGB.

The pensioner replied: "He has lost his brothers and sisters, so he comes here to give evidence."

"He does not care who is behind bars, so long as some one suffers."

Mr Sawoniuk, from south-east London, has denied two charges of murdering Jewish women while serving in the police force in his home town of Domachevo during the German occupation in 1942.

He was cleared of two other charges - alleging he murdered two Jewish males - last week on direction of the judge. He had denied them.

The trial continues today.

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to
back
blitz

small-time fiddlers are in of with a warning, but Mr. D... wants to send a message that "crime does not pay".

In a further move, the Office will no longer allow cheques to be sent to "TO" addresses or redirected to a different address to that of the claimant. This is aimed at preventing fraudsters making multiple claims.

Mr. Darling will argue that Labour inherited a mess from the Tories, who allowed millions of inaccurate payments to be made. He will also claim that the system is too complex and that the government is trying to simplify it.

Other proposals include a new target for reducing the number of people on the dole to 1.5 million by the end of the year. Mr. Darling will also announce a new target for reducing the number of people on the dole to 1.5 million by the end of the year.

Beaten in the name of Ulster's rough justice



DAVID MCKITTRICK
CORRESPONDENT OF THE YEAR

"I JUST automatically thought he was dead, my legs just went beneath me," Grace Price said yesterday after her 13-year-old son had his bones fractured by paramilitary thugs. "Nobody understands what it's like to get that sort of news. I'd never wish that on any other mother because it's the most terrible feeling to get."

At just about the same time, just down the road from the Ulster hospital, the Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, was convening round-table talks at Stormont to tackle the political deadlock. "We face one of the most critical weeks for Northern Ireland in recent years," Ms Mowlam said. "It will need the most intensive efforts from all of us."

Back at the hospital, doctors and nurses were making intensive efforts to heal Ian Price's mutilated legs, elbow and fingers after his weekend beating. As Ms Mowlam attempted to patch up the peace process, the medics tried to patch the teenager's wounds.

A shocked Mrs Price was telling the television cameras: "Four men attacked him," he says. "They're not men to me, just cowards, that's all they are, that's not men. My son said they held a gun to his head. Anybody that holds a gun to a child's head, they're no good."

Ms Mowlam was, meanwhile, appealing: "We have ahead of us the prize of a transfer of powers. There would be the best prospects we have ever had of lasting peace, underpinned by massive international goodwill."

Back up the road, Mrs Price was saying: "I came up to the hospital and saw him lying with an oxygen mask and drips and all attached to him. I'd seen that with my mother and I couldn't cope with it again. I was in



Thirteen-year-old Ian Price recovering in hospital from a 'punishment' beating. 'He's putting a brave face on it, but he's only a child,' said his mother William Cherry

shock - I couldn't believe that a 13-year-old boy... people could be so evil to do that."

Across and beyond the city, out at the Maze prison, Gerry Kelly of Sinn Féin visited the jail where he spent many years to say he had met the remaining IRA prisoners to talk about decommissioning. He emerged to deliver a hardline message. "Not a single prisoner suggested that there should be any movement on decommissioning. There is some anger that what took 30 years to put together could be brought down by David Trimble refusing to implement the agreement."

At Stormont, as the talks broke up for the day, a political source came out to say: "It was all very disappointing. The unionists and Sinn Féin just reiterated their positions, saying the same things privately as they do in public. They gave no ground at all."

At the hospital, Ian Price was facing the cameras. He only turned 13 this month and is small for age; his nickname is Buttons. He has blond hair; a smashed elbow, four broken fingers, and deep puncture wounds in his legs where nails pierced his flesh.

He was playing with other kids in the largely Protestant Newtownards when four men, believed to belong to a loyalist paramilitary group, appeared and systematically battered him with batons studded with nails.

As he spoke, blood seeped through the bandages from the gashes on his legs. "They started to hit me with the batons and then three of them went away," he said in his Northern Ireland monotone. "The other one, the fourth one, was still hitting me; he just kept on hitting me. They put a gun to my head and said I had 24 hours to get out of the country. They're a bunch of cowards. It took four men to beat up a 13-year-old with batons."

Mrs Price said Ian was trying to put a brave face on it "but he is only a child..."

"The child's hurting but he wants to be brave in front of his mates. OK, he has maybe stolen something but what's that? Every other kid does it and they don't get batons and all taken to them."

The word from Newtownards is that a loyalist group was responsible, which has carried out a number of other beatings recently. The victims of some previous punishment attacks attracted little sympathy, according to a knowledgeable source in the town: "After some beatings, I've heard it said that it couldn't happen to a nicer person." But this time it's different, he added, for locals are shocked at it happening to one so young. Maybe young Price had done a bit of stealing, it was said, and probably this time he had stolen something for the wrong person.

At Stormont they are saying that the political heat will be turned up as the week progresses, with the hope that the positions of the Ulster Unionists and Sinn Féin will eventually soften. There could be prime ministerial helicopters on the lawn next weekend, with Prime Minister Tony Blair and Taoiseach Bertie Ahern flying in to try to clinch a deal.

Mrs Price is simply concerned with her son and her family's future, and with standing up to those ordering her family out. "I'm going nowhere," she said. "I'm staying in the Glen estate, and they can try and put us all they want. They're just animals, that's what they are. God will pay them back for it, that's all I'd say. God will pay them back."

In Stormont, the politicians will be going head-to-head in a negotiation which goes beyond the purely political and which is aimed at eventually eradicating the scourge of paramilitarism that has caused so much pain to young Ian Price.

niuk: 'I'm monster'

BY PAV CLARKE

My son, Patrick Magee, killed five people. He was 19 years old when he was sentenced to life in prison. He was a member of the IRA and was involved in the Brighton bombing. He was a hero in republican circles in that he came close to killing Margaret Thatcher, prime minister at the time, who was at the top of the IRA's assassination list.

Gerard McDonnell, then 35, was sentenced to life imprisonment after being tried with Magee. He was convicted of conspiring to cause a series of explosions at seaside resorts. When arrested in Glasgow he had a loaded automatic pistol in the waistband of his trousers.

Thomas Quigley received three life sentences in 1985 for the murders of two civilians and a bomb disposal expert during an IRA bombing campaign in London in the early 1980s. Those who died were Nora Field, 59, and John Breslin, 18, who were caught in a bomb blast at Chelsea barracks, and Kenneth Howorth, who was attempting to defuse an IRA device in Oxford Street. Sentencing Quigley, who came from Belfast and was then aged 27, the judge said: "You showed not a shred of compassion for innocent passers-by."

The fourth prisoner is alleged to have links with the Irish National Liberation Army. Patrick McLaughlin, then 34 and from Londonderry, was given a life sentence in 1986 after being convicted of conspiring to plant an INLA bomb outside Chelsea barracks on Armistice Day, 1986.

In recent years a campaign protesting his innocence has gathered momentum. The INLA said he was not involved in the bombing attempt and Irish newspapers have called for a review of the conviction.



Patrick Magee: Brighton bomb killed five people
Thomas Quigley: given three life sentences
Patrick McLaughlin: has protested his innocence
Gerard McDonnell: Plan to bomb seaside resorts

Brighton bomber among four facing release delay

THE FOUR prisoners whose sentences are in question are all serving life terms. Judges recommended that two of them, Thomas Quigley and the Brighton bomber Patrick Magee, should each serve at least 35 years in prison.

In 1986 Magee, then aged 35, was given eight life sentences for his part in the Brighton hotel bombing. He was found guilty of planting the three-day device that exploded at the Grand Hotel during the 1984 Conservative conference, killing five people.

The judge told him: "You intended to wipe out a large

How to recall whatsisname...

THOSE UNABLE to put a name to a familiar face now have a new excuse; a part of their brain may be damaged. Scientists have identified the area of the brain responsible for remembering and processing proper names after treating a patient for epilepsy.

The findings, published in today's *Journal of Neurology*, show that when the man had a small section of his brain removed to control his epileptic fits, he could no longer recall the names of his friends, his family or even the hospital where he was staying.

The patient, a 47-year-old carpenter, could remember common nouns, such as names of fruits, vegetables and animals, but was unable to remember proper nouns, such as names of famous people, friends and acquaintances. He not only forgot the names he knew, but he could not memorise new names.

"This shows that there may be different neural networks involved in processing proper names and common names in the brain," said Dr Reiko Fukatsu, author of the study, who studied the case at Tohoku University in Sendai, Japan, and is currently a visiting scientist at Baycrest Centre for Geriatric Care in Toronto.

Dr Fukatsu said the case showed that an area in the brain's front, or rostral, left temporal lobe plays a crucial role in processing proper names, but appears to have no other effect on verbal function. A portion of the man's rostral left temporal lobe was removed during the surgery.

The man's impairment, known as proper name anomia, mainly affected his ability to retrieve names from his memory.

He could point to the correct photo when he was given the name of an individual, and when he was shown photos of acquaintances he could provide information about them. However, he could not, in most cases, remember their name.

Dr Fukatsu said the carpenter's problem was probably far removed from the problem many people experience when they forget names they have just been told at a drinks party.

But she insisted: "This does suggest that the tip of the left temporal lobe plays an important role in remembering the names of people we meet."

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Balloonist gives thanks to 'invisible hand'

RECORD-BREAKING balloonist Brian Jones yesterday attributed the success of his round-the-world journey to an invisible hand which guided the balloon in its worst moments.

The 51-year-old from Epsom, Surrey, also praised his co-pilot, Bertrand Piccard, and the Breitling support team which helped them win the last great prize in aviation.

He told a press conference in Geneva, where the two men had earlier received a heroes' welcome: "It was almost as if there was this invisible hand that was guiding us."

He said that halfway across the Atlantic, as he was furiously calculating if they had enough fuel left to complete the journey, the balloon's speed mysteriously started to climb.

Choking back tears, Mr Jones said: "At that point I just pushed the calculations away and knew we didn't need them anymore, because there was something bigger than that."

The first circumnavigation of the globe in a balloon ended in Egypt on Sunday after 19 days, 21 hours and 55 minutes.



Record-breaking balloon pilots Brian Jones (left) and Bertrand Piccard receiving a heroes' welcome in Geneva

Peter Dejong/AP

ADVERTISEMENT

ccTONY BLAIR

I feel so disillusioned with the Labour Party that the only reason I renewed my membership this year was so I could vote for you for mayor. I had already decided to write your name in if the leadership refused to put you on the list. I'm sure many others feel the same. I will be very happy to do what I can to help your campaign if you decide to go it alone.

My husband and I are both Labour Party members and believe that the apparent attempt to block your nomination as candidate is completely undemocratic. We believe that it is London Labour Party members who should choose the party's candidate.

Dear Mr Livingstone, Please find enclosed a contribution of £30 toward your Right To Stand Campaign fund. I am a long-standing member of the Labour Party. As you are a member of the Labour Party, with widespread support in London, the right for your name to be on the ballot paper, for Labour's nomination of a candidate for Mayor is unequivocal. Millbank's intransigence is undemocratic and consequently highly damaging to the Labour Party.

DEAR MR LIVINGSTONE, I WROTE YOU A LETTER LAST DECEMBER AND IT SHOWED YOU ARE IN FAVOUR OF THE PENSIONERS GETTING A FAIR DEAL ON PENSIONS. BECAUSE OF THIS AND THE FACT THAT WHEN YOU RAN THE GLC LONDON WAS A BETTER PLACE I WOULD LIKE TO HELP YOU TO BECOME LORD MAYOR. I HAVE QUITE A FOLLOWING IN THE DARBY & JOAN CLUBS IF YOU LET ME KNOW HOW I CAN HELP I WOULD BE OBLIGED.

At our meeting of the 1st February, grave concern was expressed at what is seen as a concerted attempt by the Labour party leadership to deny the London membership the democratic right to decide whether or not it wishes Ken Livingstone to stand as Labour's candidate in the forthcoming Mayoral election.

This overwhelming perception held by our members is, we believe, shared by Londoners of widely differing political persuasions, to the detriment of Labour's reputation and future electoral prospects.

Most people I know, irrespective of their politics, feel that you are the only person with the relevant experience and more particularly 'oomph' to tackle what looks like a huge mass of lost causes.

I am old enough to remember you as leader of the then GLC, and in the light of that would be delighted to have you as Mayor of London. Your experience, integrity and refreshing frankness, not to mention your personal charm, would I believe make you without doubt the best person to take charge of our capital city.

Though I belong to no political party, I would be willing to campaign on your behalf should you be permitted to stand, and I hope a sense of justice and common sense will prevail among the power managers of the 'New Labour' party.

Here's £10 to help for the ad in the Evening Standard. Just what we wanted! Several times you made me very cross about things the GLC did when you were its leader. But on most issues you had the right ideas and made a lot of us (especially those who hated what Thatcher has done) proud to be Londoners. Thank you.

I feel very strongly that Ken should not be blocked for applying to be Mayor of London. He is an honest man and helped Londoners when he controlled County Hall. I think us Londoners should not forget this. I am a member of the Labour party and will do all I can to further Ken's aim. I enclose my cheque for £20 and wish I could afford to send more.

If you are not allowed to stand as a candidate I shall most certainly give 'New' Labour a miss not necessarily because I disapprove of their present policies, but I disapprove of their principles (or perhaps lack of them!) and their drive to centralise political control whilst paying lip service to devolution and more representative government.

LET THE PEOPLE DECIDE - NOT COMMITTEES!

...how can they claim they are DEMOCRATIC when they are SCARED to let you stand, and even more scared of the PEOPLE voting you in. Surely you should be offered a wildcard entry at least!

If you are not allowed to stand I for one will never vote LABOUR again! Unfortunately I am on Income Support but would like to send a £5 to you.

In my opinion you should be the best choice from the Labour party, as you have vast experience and in-depth knowledge of London and its needs and problems, which you so efficiently tackled when you were boss of GLC. Your integrity and loyalty to the cause of selfless service could not be challenged; so carry on fighting for right and we are fully behind you.

We are a collective of 12 dance labels based in Camden. We are great fans of yours (some of us remember with great fondness the GLC days) and believe you alone have the vision to provide a fair deal for ALL Londoners.

Dear Ken, Best wishes for becoming Mayor of London. You've got my vote - I think most Londoners trust you. Good luck. PS I always vote Labour.

We Croydon Labour Party Retired Members and Friends, believe that all London Members of the Labour Party should be involved in selecting Labour's Candidate for London's Mayor.

We support the right of Ken Livingstone to stand for election as Mayor of London, so that the electorate can exercise their democratic rights.

KEN LIVINGSTONE'S RIGHT TO STAND

Ken Livingstone wrote a letter to Tony Blair in January this year saying "If Londoners voted for me to be their elected mayor, I would work for the government, not against it". Why, as so many of the thousands of people who've written to Ken are asking, is he being denied the opportunity of carrying out Labour policy in London? Many of them are Labour Party members, many are not, but they all share misgivings about the proposed NEC vetting panel which may deprive the members of the right to decide who is Labour's candidate. The extracts we reproduce here represent the genuine voice of people genuinely concerned about London. Is anybody listening?

This advertisement will be paid for by the donation of readers. If you would like to make a donation to help pay for more ads like this, please return this coupon to Ken's Right To Stand, 3 Hanson Street, London W1P 7LJ. Or call the credit card hotline on 0793040 6990 or 0171 436 2701.

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'Sin bin' units for unruly students

SPECIAL UNITS for disruptive children and new learning mentors to raise standards among under-achievers form part of the Government's campaign to improve inner-city schools.

Ministers' disclosure at the weekend that they were planning "master classes" for 100,000 bright pupils in inner-city comprehensives attracted widespread criticism from teachers. Yesterday, ministers announced that an extra £350m for inner-city education over the next three years would also include help for the least able.

But headteachers said they remained unpersuaded of the Government's commitment to all inner-city children. The Conservatives accused ministers of imposing one form of selection by ability for master classes while threatening the existence of grammar schools.

The Prime Minister and the Secretary of State for Education, David Blunkett, defended themselves against charges of elitism and attacked the "doom and gloom merchants" who argued that inner-city children could not be expected to achieve. Tony Blair told pupils and teachers at St Paul's community school in Bow, east London: "We shall be attacked from the right by people who want to return to a selective system that condemned 80 per cent of our children to failure at age 11 and from the left by people who say all children should be treated in the same way - and if they are born into poverty there's nothing you can do about it."

Eight hundred mentors, either teachers or youth workers will be appointed in 450 target schools at a cost of £17m. They will guide pupils towards extra help and tuition when they are falling behind. The first schools to benefit will be in London, Manchester, Liverpool, Birmingham, Leeds and Sheffield. All secondary schools in the designated areas will also have access to a "learning unit" for disruptive pupils - one for every three schools. Some schools already have pupil referral units or "sin-bins".

BY JUDITH JUDD
Education Editor

Mr Blunkett said in the Commons: "We cannot allow a disruptive pupil to wreck the life chances of others. Excluded youngsters miss out on education and often turn to crime."

Extra lessons for the brightest 10 per cent of pupils will take place in new specialist schools in arts, technology, sport and languages set up under the Government. The number of beacon schools, which receive extra money to spread good practice, will also increase.

David Hart, general secretary of the National Association of Head Teachers, said, "the stream of initiatives on virtually a weekly basis might be good politics or even good public relations" but it still fell short of a desperately needed, coherent strategy for the inner-cities.

David Willetts, the shadow Secretary of State for Education, asked why selection by ability was being imposed for master classes when the Government was threatening grammar schools and abolishing other forms of selection by ability. "Are ministers seriously suggesting more able pupils should be bussed to other schools? If it is Monday it is history in Highgate and if it's Tuesday it is maths in Merton."

Deborah Orr, Review, page 5

BBC schedule signals end of ratings war

BY RHYNS WILLIAMS

THE BBC signalled the end of its interest in challenging ITV's ratings yesterday when it launched a spring and summer schedule that features science programmes in peak time and virtually banishes the "docu-soap".

Instead of countering populism with populism, the corporation's director of television, Alan Yentob, played up the BBC's public service obligations, saying that range and diversity would not be sacrificed in favour of audience share.

Speaking about ITV's phenomenally successful *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire*, he said: "It's a good game, but it's not our game."

He added: "The BBC has other objectives. We want to bring good drama to peak time and ensure that factual programming and news is strong. To be popular is good but it isn't good enough. The BBC needs to thicken the plot, to cross the threshold of people's lives and engage with them on new levels and in new ways."

Peak-time factual output will include *Tobacco Wars*, in which the presenter Michael Buerk, an ex-smoker, embarks on a "personal journey through a century of smoking". Professor Robert Winston, who presented last year's acclaimed *The Human Body*, will feature in two science programmes, one on twins, the other on life for a newborn in the new millennium. David Attenborough narrates a *Wildlife* special on the tiger and BBC2 screens *The Planets*.



Michael Buerk: Looking at a century of smoking

There will also be a live broadcast of the solar eclipse.

The docu-soap, television's most prolific factual genre in recent years, will play a much smaller role. *Maternity* follows the process of childbirth from the first hospital appointment to delivery room. *The Wedding* is about one couple's nuptials.

Although the season will see the return of some familiar drama series (*Final Witness*, *Roger Roger and The Ambassadors*), there are also several new projects. In *Hope and Glory*, Leeny Henry takes a straight role as a headteacher of a "named and shamed" comprehensive. The award-winning maker of *Holding On*, Adrian Shergold, directs *Eureka Street*, a contemporary drama set in Belfast.

The expected highlight of the season is Tony Marchant's adaptation of Dickens' *Great Expectations* for BBC2.

FERGAL KEANE



To describe a war as 'brutal' and not show it, is pointless

IN THE TUESDAY REVIEW PAGE 12

CP 11/10/150



A wind farm at Penryoldan and Lidiartywaen, Powys. Wind energy producers urge Labour to show courage and back the industry John Voos

Labour rows back on wind power pledge

THE GOVERNMENT has been accused of ditching its manifesto commitment to boost wind and solar energy after it emerged that the policy had become mired in a Whitehall "turf war".

Environmentalists warned yesterday that Britain could be denied 30,000 new jobs and jeopardise efforts to cut greenhouse gases if ministers backed away from the pledge to generate 10 per cent of all electricity from renewable sources.

Both in opposition and soon after the election, Labour vowed to put "clean and green" energy sources such as wind farms and wave and solar power at the heart of electricity generation.

BY PAUL WAUGH
Political Correspondent

However, *The Independent* has learnt that conflicts between the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) and the Treasury have stymied progress on the issue.

To pacify the different departments, the DTI has taken the unusual step of producing two versions of its long-awaited consultation paper on pollution-free energy, one that includes a strong commitment to the 10 per cent target and one that does not. The paper, which has already been delayed by 22 months, was due out this Thursday but now will not be published until next month at the earliest.

It is understood that while John Battle, the Energy minister, is pushing for the target, other ministers and civil servants in the DETR and the Treasury want to water down the pledge. Mr Battle's opponents claim that the 10 per cent figure would mean high levies on business and consumers.

John Prescott, Secretary of State in the department, has already blocked several planning applications for wind farms and is believed to have made his objections - largely relating to the impact on the landscape - clear to the DTI. But if the target is dropped, Mr Battle faces severe embarrassment as he has repeatedly said he wants a "new and strong drive to develop renewable energy".

If the Government did commit itself to a target, it would then be able to place regular orders with the renewable energy industry, providing companies with the stability they claim they need to invest. Green groups claim that the contracts to build wind and wave turbines could breathe life back into Britain's traditional precision engineering base.

Nick Goodall, chief executive of the British Wind Energy Association, said the prospect of the Government backing away from the 10 per cent target was "plain scary. We've got to get it right now or we'll be the poor man of Europe with a laughably small renewables industry. The irony is we can supply all the pollution-free electricity they want if only they'd show a bit more courage," he said.

Ian Taylor, of the environmental campaign group Greenpeace, said that the delays would send a signal to investors that Britain was not the place to come to develop world-beating technology. "The DTI is supposed to be the champion of British industry but this would mean selling our firms down the river... If this is a turf war between departments, then it is appalling... Jobs will be lost while at the same time our environmental future will be forfeited. It's the worst of all worlds."

Porn reprimand for councillors

LABOUR'S 10,400 local councillors are being warned not to misuse their personal computers after incidents of accessing pornographic material.

The party's ruling National Executive Committee (NEC) is expected to decide today to lift suspensions but reprimand two members of Shropshire County Council after a police investigation into porn on the Internet. Four Shropshire councillors were charged under the Computer Misuse Act but the Crown Prosecution Service later dropped the charges.

A confidential report into the Shropshire affair, obtained by *The Independent*, reveals the Labour's inquiry panel found that Peter Taylor and Derek Woodvine were "not impressive" as witnesses and were "less than frank with their answers."

BY ANDREW GRICE
Political Editor

Councillor Taylor "admitted drawing down images" at home using a council modem but insisted he paid the phone cost. He strenuously denied accessing images connected with hard porn or paedophilia.

Councillor Woodvine told the Labour inquiry the police had been waiting for an opportunity to "stitch him up" after he criticised their handling of a murder case.

Both councillors blamed the problems which provoked the police investigation on two other councillors who subsequently left the Labour Party.

The panel proposed that Cllr Taylor be warned about his future conduct and Cllr Woodvine be reminded of his duty to protect the party's good name.

IN BRIEF

Teenagers die in suicide pact

POLICE LAUNCHED an investigation after two teenagers apparently took their own lives in a suicide pact, it was confirmed yesterday. The bodies of Leanne Elbeck, 16, and Damien Kilburn, 19, both of Wakefield, West Yorkshire, were found in a home-filled car on Friday.

Bristol surgeon 'saint' and 'sinner'

A MOTHER yesterday praised one of the heart surgeons at the centre of the Bristol baby deaths inquiry, Janardan Dhasmana, for working skilfully to save her son's life. But another mother, whose child suffered brain damage after surgery, said the surgeon had misled her about the risks.

Record fine for train derailment

BALFOUR BEATTY was fined £500,000 at Chelmsford Crown Court after a train derailment - a record financial penalty for a railway accident. Its rail arm admitted a health and safety breach at Rivenham, Essex, in 1997.

Harassment case driver stopped

A BLACK motorist, Carl Josephs, who lost a harassment case against West Midlands Police earlier this year after claiming he was stopped 34 times in two years, alleges he has been pulled over three times since.

'Pay up' says quiz show man

ANDREW LAVELLE, who won £16,000 on the ITV quiz show *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire* but was stripped of the cash for having £682 in debts has paid his fines to a court. He says the show should now give him the money.

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John Voos

Calculus, confusion and the question of elastic children

QUESTION: IF, as the Chancellor said in his budget statement recently, our children are 30 per cent of the population but 100 per cent of our future and if 10 per cent of our future is to benefit from new schemes to stretch intellectually able pupils, then what percentage of our population will have caused to be grateful for Mr Blunkett's announcement yesterday on Excellence in Education?

Examinees may not use a calculator. Incidentally, given that mental arithmetic is part of the new numeracy strategy, and is to be restored from September, I can't answer my own question, incidentally.

which would presumably mean that, were I at school, I would not be plucked from the class to be given extra lessons in calculus.

On the other hand I might be deemed to be so disadvantaged that I qualified for special needs teaching, or become so agitated by my failure that I was eventually chosen for one of the disruptive learning units that the government also proposes setting up.

Tory MPs looked a little baffled too yesterday, faced with the conundrum of how to attack the Government for spending more money on educating disadvantaged children. As Mr Blunkett reminded MPs,

the government had promised to modernise the comprehensive principle and yesterday he explained that this consisted of smuggling a miniaturised grammar school in through the back door of selected inner-city comprehensives.

Being a bit of a slow-streamer when it comes to education policy I couldn't immediately understand how this programme of turbo-boosting certain schools was to be carried out - it seemed to involve a complicated set of overlapping zones and frameworks that took me back to the dizzying enigmas of the Venn diagram. But one thing was clear - gifted pupils were to be

THE SKETCH



THOMAS
SUTCLIFFE

stretched. Mr Blunkett said this quite a lot, confident that child-stretching was one of those projects that no one could decently oppose.

What was less transparent was how the elasticity of the child was to be established without testing. Obviously no one would want the wrong kind of child to be picked out and an unpleasant snapping incident to take place.

Tory MPs couldn't work out either how selection both would and would not be part of the system. Even Labour MPs seemed loyally confused, in truth. After David Willetts had asked for an assurance that bright children wouldn't be teased about to get their specialist treatment, and after Mr Blunkett had scornfully delivered it, Eddie O'Hara stood up, furrow on his

brow, to ask how the one school in his area that taught Latin could supply it to every eager pupil in Knowsley. Dennis Skinner then conjugated the verb *amo*, to love - proving unruly elements could be returned to the mainstream with the help of sympathetic mentoring.

Mr Blunkett seemed cheered by this but then he was in celebratory mood anyway - he celebrated particular schools, he celebrated diversity, he celebrated the weekend schools set up by many black parents. He even "rejoiced" in a supportive inquiry from Michael Colvin, the Conservative member for Ramsey. The only thing he execrated, in

fact, was wealthy parents who lived in "leafy suburbs", the last phrase emerging with unexpected vigour in response to a question from John Wilkinson. It was as if the Minister had meant only to clear his throat but accidentally let rip a belch of Old Labour class hatred.

Julie Kirkbride, wearing a skirt that would have got her sent home by any self-respecting girls' school, responded with similar stridency - inviting him to support the principle of grammar school selection. Mr Blunkett wouldn't - he knows grammar schools have to be ground up very small if Labour MPs are to swallow them without choking.

Government blamed for local tax rises

THE GOVERNMENT came under fierce attack yesterday for forcing "massive hidden tax hikes" after it emerged that council taxes in England will rise by an average 6.8 per cent.

The Liberal Democrats claimed that cuts in local government spending on health and education meant that councils had to increase their taxes from next month.

But Hilary Armstrong, the Local Government minister, accused the party of trying to shift blame from their councils to central government.

"Much of local government has moved on from the old politics of spend and blame and it seems the Liberals have not. They have become apologists for the old-style, municipal tax and spend - high taxation, low efficiency," she insisted.

She noted that the Standard Spending Assessments (SSAs), the amounts the Government believes councils need to spend to provide services, had increased by 2.6 per cent. The Government had also ended "crude and universal" council tax capping.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

BY SARAH SCHAEFER
Political Reporter

Whitehall sources have disclosed that the average rise will be 6.4 per cent in London, 5.3 per cent in the metropolitan authorities, 5.9 per cent in unitary councils and 7.9 per cent in shire counties.

The Liberal Democrats are likely to use the increase as ammunition for their campaign for the local elections in June.

Opening the Liberal Democrat-led Commons debate, Paul Burstow said the local government settlement amounted to a "massive backdoor increase in taxation".

"As the Government withdraws support from local spending, the council tax payer has to pay more. Labour exposed this as a scandal under the Tories and yet they continue to adopt exactly the same policy."

Mr Burstow said it was not a question of what local authorities decided to spend "because over 75 per cent of what they get to spend" was dictated by central government.

Accusing ministers of peddling "fantasy figures", Mr Burstow said the gap between what councils were spending and what the Government was funding was growing year by year and now stood at £2.3bn.

The Government predicted when it set spending levels for the coming financial year that if authorities kept to their SSAs, council tax bills would rise by an average 4.5 per cent.

Mrs Armstrong stressed that 124 of England's 358 councils had set their council tax at or below their SSA increase for the coming year, and many of the others had gone only slightly above.

Ministers are considering whether those councils spending above the guidelines should have to help pay for council tax benefit paid to poorer people, which is currently met by central government.

Whitehall sources said Labour councils had a lower than average council tax rise - at 6.1 per cent compared with the 6.8 per cent national average - and Tory councils higher than average, at 7.6 per cent.



Tony Blair (right) and Peter Mandelson, former trade and industry minister, at the Theatre Royal in central London yesterday as the National Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Children launched its 20-year campaign to put a 'full stop' to child abuse. Paul Hackett

'Cynical' Monsanto branded public enemy number one

MONSANTO, the firm at the centre of the controversy over genetically modified food, is "public enemy number one", a Liberal Democrat MP told the House of Commons last night.

Norman Baker, MP for Lewes, said the US-based multinational had shown a lack of concern for the environment and for public opinion.

In a debate on the World Trade Organisation, Mr Baker said the firm's activities must be curtailed. "Monsanto are public enemy number one. They insist on thwarting consumer choice, bulldozing elected governments and forcing

FOOD
FRAN ABRAMS
Westminster Correspondent

their wicked products on the world's population. They need to be brought within democratic control urgently.

"Monsanto could well be the bad news story of the 21st century if they are not stopped."

Mr Baker attacked the company for its "intimidating" tactics against farmers, including the use of private investigators to ensure they were meeting their contractual requirements. One firm of US investigators had been hired to question farmers

and take samples from their land, Mr Baker said.

The US government was acting on behalf of Monsanto when it warned it would file for damages if the European Union continued to ban the firm's treated milk, he added. Farmers in the US that attempted to label untreated milk were threatened with legal action.

In one of its most "cynical" moves to date, the firm had persuaded politicians and leaders in Africa that its technologies were a way to combat starvation. In India, some GM crops were grown without the farmers' knowledge until complaints

led to an injunction being granted by the supreme court. Plans to grow GM soya in Brazil this year would substantially reduce world supplies of conventional soya, Mr Baker added.

In Britain, Monsanto had launched a £1m advertising campaign that had made claims later condemned by the Advertising Standards Authority as "wrong...unproven, misleading and confusing".

Mr Baker also listed a number of examples to support his claim that company executives seemed to be in a "revolving door" to and from official government positions.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Arms exports report 'soon'

THE PROMISED report on arms exports, due to be published last year, will be out "soon", Defence Secretary, George Robertson, insisted.

Church has £3.5bn assets

THE CHURCH of England has assets worth £3.5bn, Stuart Bell, the Labour MP for Middlesbrough who speaks on behalf of the Church Commissioners, disclosed.

First-class travel costs

NORTHERN IRELAND ministers and officials spent almost £60,000 on first-class air travel during 1998. All but one of their flights were made to the United States, Northern Ireland Secretary, Mo Mowlam, revealed.

Straw 'regrets' Immigration Service chaos

JACK STRAW told MPs yesterday he "greatly regretted" the chaos in the Immigration Service, which he said represented the greatest management challenge faced by the Home Office.

"I greatly regret the fact that the service has deteriorated as much as it has," the Home Secretary said before MPs on the Commons Special Standing Committee.

Mr Straw, who will today visit immigration headquarters in Croydon, south London, explained to MPs that the move of the headquarters from Lunar House to new offices near by had created major problems for staff, and said that an arrangement with the private company Siemens in 1996 to install a new computer system was "well behind schedule".

The Home Secretary's visit will coincide with a report by the National Audit Office into immigration headquarters, which is expected to be highly critical. However, Mr Straw said he did not think the chaos was sufficiently worrying to reduce the

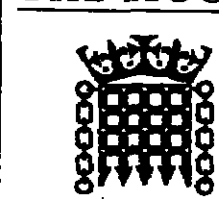
ASYLUM BILL
BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

target set in the Asylum Bill for dealing with future applications within six months. He also defended the proposals for denying asylum seekers cash benefits and instead giving them benefits in kind. He said the costs of such a system were justified by the number of non-genuine applicants who would be deterred by the lack of cash incentives.

Earlier, immigration officials had told the committee that the use of "intelligence-led passenger profiling" was bringing about a culture of institutional racism.

John Tinney, information director of the Immigration Service Union, said passengers were increasingly being targeted on account of their race or nationality. "Selectivity in immigration control amounts to stereotyping and little else... This is precisely the kind of institutionalised racism as defined by the Macpherson report."

THE HOUSE



Nuclear arms

George Robertson, Secretary of State for Defence, pointed to the strength of Labour's conversion to retaining nuclear weapons when he said he was told by an ordinary party member that Britain should have more missiles, not fewer. Labour Party members now valued the "insurance" nuclear weapons provided, he said.

Today's agenda

Commons: 2.30pm Scottish and Lord Chancellor's Department questions. Local Government Bill. Debate on millennium bug and European defence. Lords: 2.30pm Youth Justice and Criminal Evidence Bill. Disability Rights Commission Bill. Railways (Rateable Values) (Amendment) Order.

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children

I was a wealthy parents who lived in a "leafy suburb," the last phrase arguing with unexpected vigor in response to a question from an *un*William. It was as if the kid had meant only to clear his vast but accidentally let rip a leg of Old Labour class. Let me. Julie Kirkhedge, wearing a skirt it would have put her out home any self-respecting varsity school, responded with similar stridency, adding hint to support the principal of grammar school selection. *un*William wouldn't know; grammar schools have to be ground up by small if Labour MPs are to allow them without choking.

More control sought on herbal cures

STRICTER CONTROLS should be imposed over the sale of herbal remedies because of the dangers of possible side-effects, according to scientists involved in studying the potential benefits of traditional medicines.

Many herbal remedies are sold as food supplements, enabling manufacturers to bypass the regulations imposed on licensed plant products.

The Government is under pressure from the European Union to tighten the sale of such remedies and the Department of Health has asked the Medicines Control Agency to review new control measures.

Baroness Hayman, a Health minister, yesterday announced a period of consultation before the Government took action. "The present regulatory arrangements have some limitations," she said.

"There is a sharp contrast between the rigorous requirements to demonstrate safety, quality and efficacy which apply to licensed herbal medicines, and the limited regulatory requirements which apply to unlicensed herbal medicines."

Professor Edzard Ernst, head of complementary medicine at Exeter University, told a scientific meeting in London that there was little excuse for treating herbal remedies any differently from other medicines with proven benefits.

There has been nearly a four-

By STEVE CONNOR
Science Editor

fold increase in herbal treatments in the US since 1990 and although no similar figures are available in Britain, Professor Ernst said that anecdotal evidence suggests traditional medicine is experiencing a similar increase in popularity.

Professor Ernst said existing controls were not enough. "The present situation is unsatisfactory because it doesn't guarantee that the consumer is protected. There are certain side-effects from herbal remedies and a lack of control invites all sorts of cowboy behaviour," he said.

The World Health Organisation has registered about 9,000 cases of side-effects caused by people taking herbal remedies, many caused by allergic reactions or the effects of contamination and adulteration.

Bart Halkees, an expert in herbal remedies at the University of Utrecht, said many traditional medicines are inherently impure products.

"Contaminants may likely to be found in crude medicinal herbs include heavy metals such as lead, mercury and cadmium, pesticides or herbicides, microorganisms and also microbiological toxins, such as aflatoxin, and radioactive isotopes," Dr Halkees said.

Deliberate adulteration, due

to either incompetence or ignorance, is also a problem, he said. "Adverse reactions may also be due to the use of concentrates or specifically processed extracts of plants which are known to affect the metabolism of other drugs in the body."

Elizabeth Williamson, who studies the effects of herbal remedies at the University of London, said there was no such thing as an effective medicine that did not have side-effects.

"There should be more control over unlicensed herbal medicines. The problem is that people are swallowing a lot of a food supplement," she said.

The aromatherapy debate, *Health Review*, page 11

FIVE POPULAR HERBAL REMEDIES



GINKGO BILOBA KAVA ECHINACEA SAW PALMETTO ST JOHN'S WORT

WHAT IS IT. WHERE IS IT FOUND?	Old Chinese tree, but grows abundantly around the world. The leaves are used as a medicine	Root of the pepper plant, comes from the South Seas islands, notably Fiji	Small flowering plant from North America. Any part may be used, but mostly the roots	A cactus-like plant. Grows in hot, dry climates. Used by native Americans	Grows just about everywhere in mild, damp climate, such as Britain's. Shrub with yellow flowers
WHAT IS IT SUPPOSED TO DO?	Traditionally associated with relieving circulatory disorders. More recently, said to help to slow the onset of senile dementia. Contains a number of active ingredients	Used traditionally as a recreational drink because of its relaxing properties. A known psycho-active drug, it is currently being studied as a possible anti-depressive	Supposed to be a general tonic. Said to boost the immune system by stimulating the white blood cells. Could help to prevent colds and simple infections	Supposed to help alleviate the symptoms of benign prostate problems in men, who have difficulty urinating. Scientists are still trying to work out how it works	Supposed to help mild or moderate depression. Traditionally used as a tonic, and a treatment for mood disorders. Unclear what the active ingredients may be
IS THERE EVIDENCE IT WORKS?	Good anecdotal evidence to ease problems with blood system. Clinical trials in Germany and US indicate a positive effect in averting the symptoms of Alzheimer's disease	At least 10 clinical trials indicate that it is better than a placebo and as good as some mild tranquillisers at calming anxiety symptoms	Some evidence, mostly anecdotal and controversial. Some trials show it works, others indicate it has no effect. The jury's out	No question that it works, say the experts. Clinical trials show an unequivocal benefit to men with prostate disorders	About 20 trials conducted that indicate there is good reason to believe there is something to the anecdotal reports
ARE THERE SIDE EFFECTS?	Hardly any. Occasional allergy problems. May react with blood-thinning drugs used on patients with heart disease	Mild stomach upsets, and probably not to be used with synthetic tranquillisers	Gastro-intestinal upsets; quite dramatic allergic reactions reported in some people	Virtually none. A potential winner, according to some experts	Mild stomach upsets, and a theoretical risk of skin problems when exposed to sunlight

Lawrence father backs campaign

THE FATHER of the murdered black teenager Stephen Lawrence has given his backing to a campaign to bring to justice the killers of a Sikh waiter who was stabbed to death in Scotland last year.

Neville Lawrence said, in a letter of support to the Chikotat Family Justice Campaign, that the case bore striking similarities to that of his own son.

Surjit Singh Chikotat, 32, who had two children, was stabbed in Overton, Strathclyde, last November. A man was acquitted of Mr Chikotat's murder but convicted of assault earlier this month at the High Court in Glasgow. He lodged a special defence, blaming two other men for the killing. Those

BY IAN BURRELL
Home Affairs Correspondent

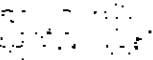
Two men appeared at Hamilton Sheriff Court on separate dates in November charged with murder. The charges have not been officially dropped, but the Crown Office is deciding how to proceed.

Stephen's killers have never been brought to justice after he was murdered in London in 1993. Mr Lawrence said: "The inquiry into the police investigation in my son's murder found that it was affected by institutionalised racism. I have no doubt that the treatment this family has received from the police... is a sharp reflection of that meted out to my family."




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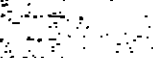
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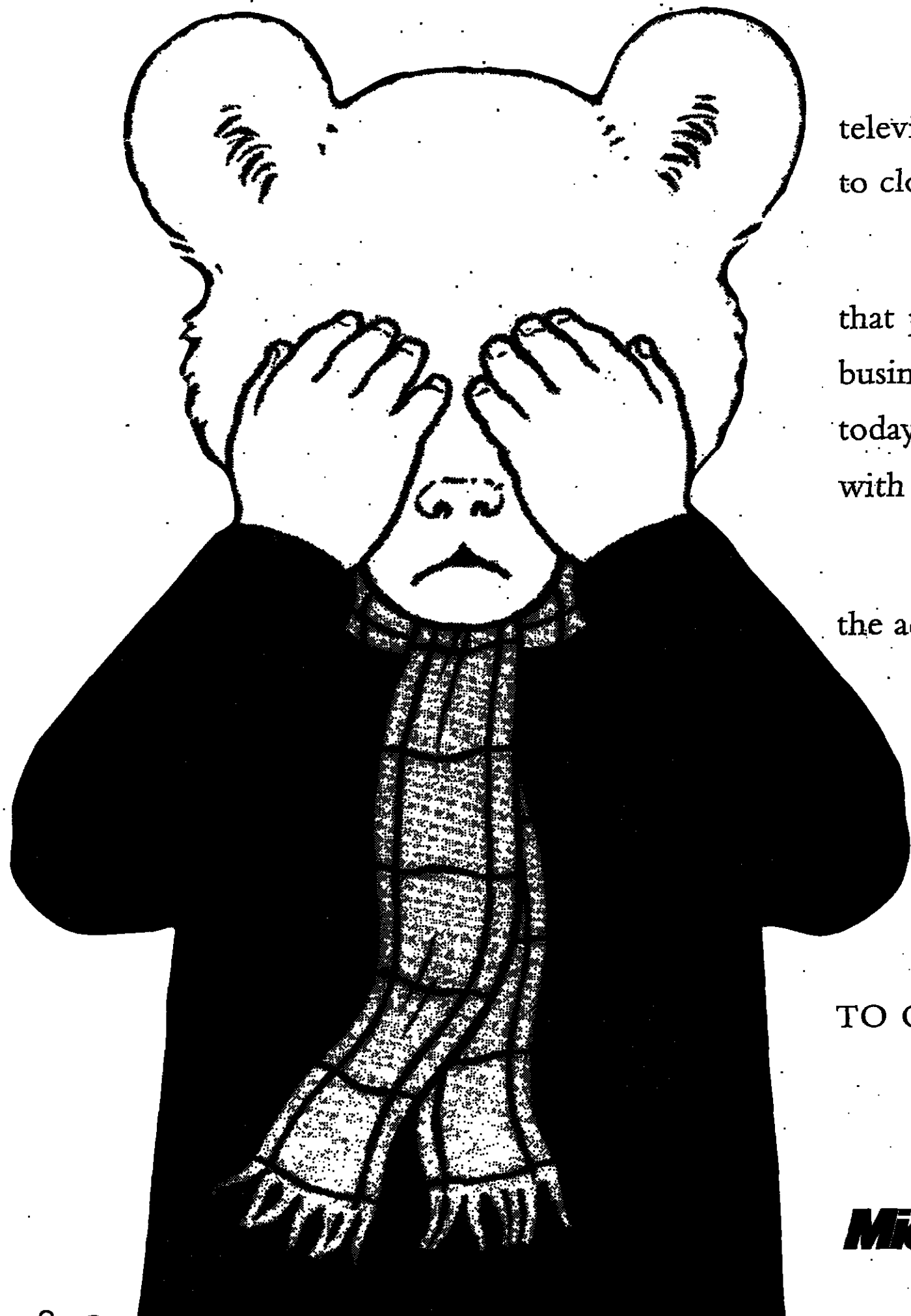
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Today's agenda

PLEASE DON'T CLOSE YOUR EYES TO CRUELTY TO CHILDREN.



You may have seen the NSPCC's recent television and poster campaign, asking people not to close their eyes to cruelty to children.

At the heart of this campaign lies the belief that protecting children from cruelty is everyone's business. That is why we are asking for your help today...because only by working in partnership with you can we achieve our goal.

Please sign the pledge below and return it to the address shown right now.

Signing the pledge is your way of telling us that you, too, want a future where all children are loved and protected, and that you will do what you can to help.

TOGETHER WE WILL STOP CRUELTY
TO CHILDREN - FULL STOP.

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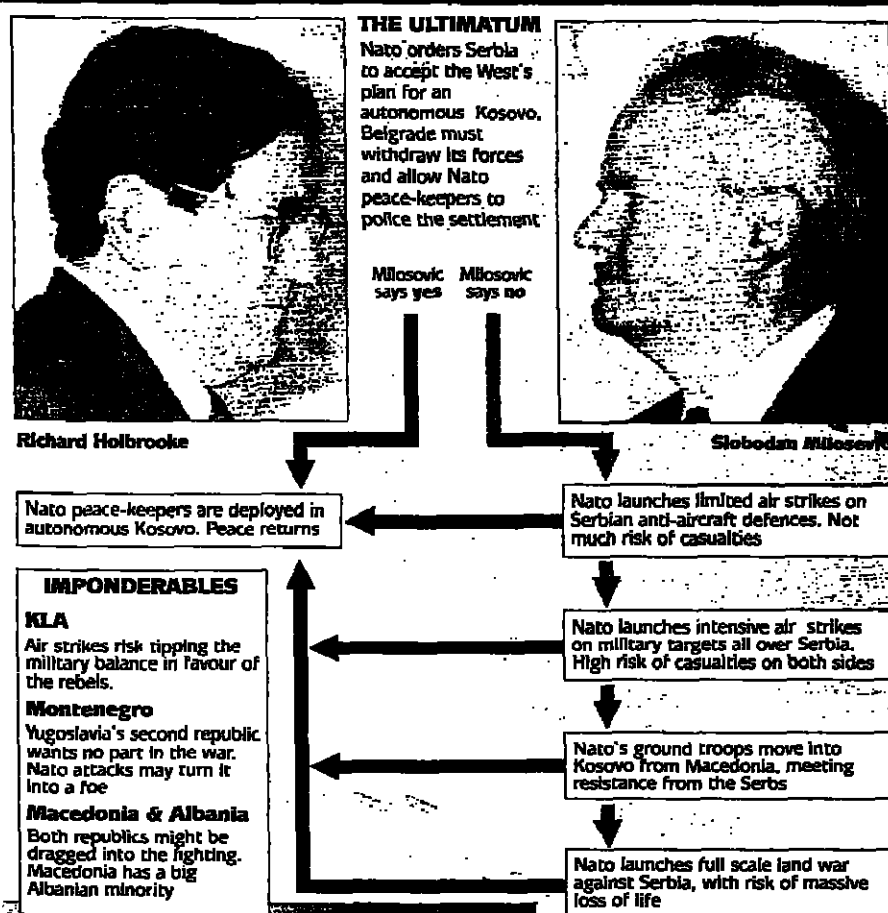
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HOW THE WAR COULD ESCALATE



HOW THE WEST'S FORCES LINE UP AGAINST THE SERBS



Will Kosovo be Europe's Vietnam?

WITH THE withdrawal of the international monitors from Kosovo, Nato has burnt its last bridge of credibility. To have done so - and then not raise a finger as Slobodan Milosovic wreaked his vengeance on the Albanians - would rank with Munich 1938 or Budapest 1956 as a Western betrayal. So unless the Yugoslav President, in his meetings with the US special envoy, stares into the whites of Richard Holbrooke's eyes and blinks, we have to assume air strikes will go ahead - within three days at most.

What happens next, even the most bemuddled television studio strategist will hesitate to guess. In terms of military capability, national will and possible unintended consequences, few recent conflicts are so hard to read. Few are so short of obvious parallels. Generally, proverbially, are always tempted to refight the last war. But in the case of Kosovo, which war?

Kosovo, it may safely be

said, is not Vietnam. For whereas Vietnam was populated by Vietnamese, less than 10 per cent of Kosovo's 2 million inhabitants are Serb. And unlike Hanoi, Belgrade has shown no stomach to endure aerial bombardment "for a generation" to secure its goals. But then again, Kosovo and Serbia are not Iraq - a bare, flat land where targets are hard to hide and the enemy's capacity for self-defence (pace the apocalyptic warnings of Tony Blair and George Robertson, the Secretary of State for Defence) is derisory.

In terms of terrain, this looming Balkan war will be like Balkan wars before it, fought across hills, forests and scattered population centres. For Andrew Brooks of the International Institute for Strategic Studies, it is in some ways "a big Switzerland. The forces are dispersed, they've dug a lot of holes in mountains, there's a tradition of fighting for soil, they can't be taken out in one fell swoop".

This is the tough-as-nails Serbia of legend, which President Milosovic does nothing to discourage. Nato has crushing air superiority, more than 400 top-of-the-line Western aircraft, against 80 Soviet-built planes, mostly ageing MiG-21s. However, "while you can destroy air defence centres", says Mr Brooks, "Belgrade has mobile radar units, and a lot of people with surface-to-air missiles".

Then there is the matter of targets. It is assumed that in a first phase, Nato will go for communications and air defence sites and swiftly thereafter ammunition depots. But eight years ago, an even larger onslaught failed to knock out any of Iraq's scud missile units. And if Yugoslav armour on the ground is directly targeted, the lesson of Chechnya and similar conflicts is that infantry and artillery dispersed in rough country can stand up to a massive

crack so easily this time? Bosnia, after all, was a sovereign independent state. Kosovo is, legally, a part of the republic of Serbia. Will it really be surrendered so easily?

And Nato is operating under constraints its opponents need not observe. Presumably special force operatives are already among the men on the ground, able to pinpoint targets for the attacking aircraft. Even so, Nato governments will insist their pilots hit the right targets with the smallest possible "collateral damage" - the unintended killing of innocent civilians - and debates such as last summer's destruction of the pharmaceuticals factory in Sudan.

Analysts say Belgrade may already have shifted ammunition depots into urban areas, making cruise missiles harder to use. Pinpoint bombs are still best launched from planes with human beings at the controls. If so, many experts predict, Nato losses will be inevitable,

with uncertain political consequences back home.

Small wonder Nato leaders pray that a small dose of bombing does the trick - that Mr Milosovic then convinces hard-liners that he has done all he can, and that the Kosovo game is up. But suppose it doesn't. Suppose rather that this most cynical of politicians, whose overriding goal is survival, calculates that any surrender spells his own political (conceivably even physical) demise.

So he fights on. His air defences bring down allied aircraft, perhaps with the loss of their pilots. At this point, Nato will have lost control of events. The tidal logic of war takes over. The air strikes are widened to embrace infrastructure targets such as roads, rail links and power stations. The message is now addressed to the Serbian people as a whole: this is what happens when your leader defies Nato.

But in the process the alliance becomes ever more the

Ferocious Serb assault opens with executions

BY ENIMA DALY in Srbica

AS THEIR houses burnt, terrified Albanians from the little town of Srbica in Kosovo told of the execution of more than 20 Albanians during the first day of a Yugoslav offensive. It began as international ceasefire monitors were evacuated from Kosovo on Saturday morning.

Babies cried and women wept as they described the Serbs' ferocious assault. "They came to our house wearing green uniforms and black masks," Adile Mustafa said. "They shelled our house in the morning, and the door was broken. We couldn't close it. They came in, shouting... you can see for yourself," she continued, gesturing towards thick plumes of smoke rising from houses burning near by.

The Serb soldiers and police could be seen sheltering behind armoured vehicles close to the police station, although most of the fire seemed to be booming out of Srbica, not coming in.

The buses overloaded with refugees and the burning houses evoked sinister echoes of the 1992-95 war in Bosnia and the bloody bouts of "ethnic cleansing" that accompanied it.

"My husband and my sons were taken on Saturday, and we have no news of them," Mrs Mustafa continued, her eyes brimming with tears. "That day, they rounded up about 10 men and took them up the hill, and we heard shooting." Behind her, a bus overloaded with refugees set off for the northern town of Mitrovica. "It's better to kill us than to terrify us like this," she said.

But the Serbs are killing them. Ferad Zenune, 85, said they had seized his 35-year-old son, Mehmet, on Saturday, before ordering the family to leave. "Women, children and older men were pushed out of the house, and younger men were kept inside," he said, weeping. "I went to Srbica yesterday, and I saw a lot of blood in my garden,



An ethnic Albanian refugee feeding her grandson near the Kosovo-Macedonia border yesterday. Damir Sogolj

that he had reports of 16 people killed, including an acquaintance, Sahit Velij.

East of the town, a tank sat on a hill close to a burning house, the muzzle-flash visible as it fired towards rebel positions in Drenica, until recently the KLA stronghold. North, the refugee buses and our cars were held up for 30 minutes while a combined police and army force fired across the road into Drenica.

Three policemen strolled out of a house next to the road as smoke billowed out and flames shattered the windows. Before long, flames were surging through the roof and it was time for the convoy to move on.

Back in Srbica, Mrs Mustafa - crying again - said: "The police just came past now and told us to go back to our houses, but how can we return to burnt houses, filled with a lot of smoke?"

She could not have known that about 20 miles to the south, thousands more Albanians were on the move, having fled their homes in the villages around Malisevo during the night, because of heavy fire in the area. Journalists stuck in the town of Glogovac, held by Serbs, on Sunday evening, heard outgoing artillery and rocket fire.

"The children were terrified, when they heard the shooting and shelling they were so frightened they were crying, so we had to leave," said Mehmet, who fled his home near Trpeza village, with his wife, seven children, grandchildren, and his mother, who is paralysed. "We left at 11 o'clock at night, and because of the situation, we drove without lights, in a tractor convoy along very bad roads."

The family is now camped, with dozens more, in the dilapidated school building in Drenova village. Their plight indicates that the Serb offensive is moving south. It bodes ill for the thousands of Albanians still living in the rolling hills of southern Drenica. Unless Nato strikes, they will be next.

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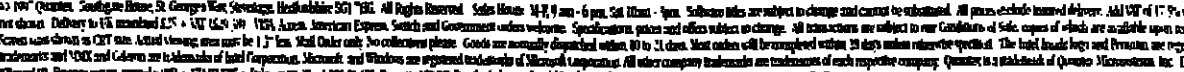
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Prodi tipped to head EU

EUROPEAN UNION leaders look likely to choose a successor to Jacques Santer as president of the European Commission by the time they wrap up a summit meeting in Berlin on Friday morning.

Last night the field of candidates had narrowed to two: Romano Prodi, the former Italian prime minister and Wim Kok, the Dutch Prime Minister.

Mr Prodi, the clear favourite, has already been publicly endorsed by most of the 15 governments. In London, British ministers said he was now the strong favourite: "There is a growing consensus behind

BY KATHERINE BUTLER
in Brussels
AND ANDREW GRICE

him," said one. The ministers hope agreement on his appointment might be reached at the summit of EU leaders in Berlin starting tomorrow, although the German hosts say it may take longer.

Downing Street said yesterday that Mr Prodi was "a very high quality person" and a "real reformer".

Although Tony Blair's spokesman said the same description would apply to Wim Kok, he had "given every indi-

cation he is unlikely to be a candidate".

Privately both the German Chancellor, Gerhard Schröder, and Mr Blair, have indicated they have a preference for Mr Kok. Mr Blair's spokesman sought to allay fears that the choice of an Italian might damage the EU's image in Britain because of the spate of corruption scandals in Italy. "It's pretty insulting to suggest the northern states are all clean and the southern ones corrupt," he said.

Michael Howard, the shadow foreign secretary, said Mr Blair's backing for the former

Italian prime minister showed he has "failed utterly" to learn the lessons of last week's damning inquiry report on the Commission. Mr Howard said Mr Prodi "would take Europe further along the path to a single European state".

The European Parliament, in emergency session in Brussels last night, warned EU governments that the countdown to clearing out the old Commission and installing a new one had begun in earnest.

Labour's Pauline Green, leader of the socialists, the biggest faction in the 626-member parliament, said her group

wanted a new presidential candidate designated at Berlin. The new president should be "experienced, competent and committed to in-depth reform". Socialists wanted "a whole new Commission in place with speed, properly ratified by this Parliament using the powers that will be given to us in the incoming Amsterdam Treaty".

Enforcing the terms of the Treaty early would also give the new president the right to refuse the names of individual commissioners put forward by the national governments. Germany's Foreign Minister, Joschka Fischer, promised MEPs

that his government, which holds the EU presidency, is now hoping for parliamentary ratification of the new Commission president by mid-April. That would require a political agreement on the candidate at or shortly after the Berlin meeting, which opens tomorrow.

Mr Blair is edging to a compromise deal over the special rebate on Britain's contributions to the EU, which is worth £2bn a year. The Prime Minister would accept a new formula that would reduce the value of the rebate - but only because Britain's payments to Brussels would also fall.



An elderly beggar in a Moscow subway

Sally Army's gift of hope

STREET LIFE
SAMOTECHNY LANE

THE RUSSIAN Orthodox Church may be suspicious of foreign missionaries but Vera Ivanova, alone in the world at 93, is glad to receive a call from the Salvation Army. For them, the "soldiers" do not impose their view of God on the elderly and disabled people they visit but try to help them in practical ways.

The "soldiers" in this story are not, in fact, foreigners but Russians who have chosen a different path from traditional Orthodoxy. Although in these times of crisis it seems that Russians are mostly on the receiving end of charity, there are those who are giving their lives to others.

Nina Salnikova leads a team that cares for the vulnerable in their own homes. She is rising in the Salvation Army in Russia, administered mostly by Americans who run soup kitchens for the homeless, a drug and alcohol rehabilitation programme and a prison ministry as well as social services.

I was looking out for Nina on the platform of Textilshiki (Textile Workers') metro station. Surely, I would spot her bonnet in the fur-hatted crowd. But it was she who picked out my floppy red velvet hat, giving me away as a deaf foreigner. She had left her uniform at home and was wearing an astrakhan coat and floral headscarf.

We were going to visit Vera Ivanova. On the bus, Nina told me her own story. Widowed, she had brought up three children, including a disabled son. She was on a list of the poor and received a food parcel from the Salvation Army. Moved by this, she decided to attend Bible classes and joined the army herself. Now she is one of their full-time social workers.

Always on the lookout for new helpers, she goes to the labour exchange and offers cleaning jobs to people ready to work with the elderly. They do not have to be believers but they should be patient, honest and reliable. Outside an apartment block, we met Galya, one of Nina's recruits. Galya cleans and cares for seven lonely pensioners, including Vera Ivanova.

Cautiously, the old lady opened the door of her single room. Nina and Galya had warned her they were bringing a journalist. "I'm not a monkey," she said, frowning.

was going to photograph her. I did not even take out a pen.

Galya gave her an apple in a cup, a belated present for International Women's Day. Vera Ivanova asked for new curtains, as she found the spring sun too bright. Despite her frailty, she revealed a sharp mind. When her memories began to flow, they were of teaching Russian language and literature to children in Stalin's time.

Once, she said, she was criticised for spending too much time on Turgenev and Chekhov and failing to give sufficient weight to Stalin and Lenin. A commission of inspectors arrived to supervise a lesson. Terrified that she might be condemned as an "enemy of the people", she decided to stick to grammar, which seemed an ideologically free zone. She wrote the following sentence on the blackboard: "The people compose wonderful songs about our own wise, dear Stalin." Just in time, she realised her mistake and said: "Oh my goodness, I should have made Stalin the subject of the sentence." This self-criticism saved her skin.

I could have listened to her all morning but Vera Ivanova tired of having guests. Galya stayed to do the cleaning while Nina and I got up to leave. "Don't come again," the old lady said to me, sweetly but firmly. I promised I would not bother her any more.

"We work with all kinds of people," said Nina when we were outside. "Some are bad-tempered, especially if they are ill. We understand." Harder for her to take must be the attitude of some of her countrymen. Because, under Communism, Russians grew used to the idea that the state provided, they can be suspicious of altruism. "They think I must be after something for myself," she said.

Frequently, she also comes up against the attitude that a "true Russian can only be Russian Orthodox". The Patriarchy may have reason to be concerned about some of the wackier sects operating in Russia but it also jealously guards what it regards as its spiritual territory.

"Orthodox priests are sometimes less than friendly. They do not like us," said Nina. "We hope to convince by the force of our example."

HELEN WOMACK

Finn PM sneaks home in tight poll

BY RUPERT CORNWELL

TO MUCH relief in Brussels, Paavo Lipponen looked likely to hang on to power yesterday as Finland's Prime Minister at the head of a centrist, pro-EU coalition, after earlier seeming to face defeat in a cliffhanger general election on Sunday.

Thanks to a surge in late returns, Mr Lipponen's Social Democratic Party pipped the agrarian Centre party to remain the largest single party with 31 seats, against 48 for the Centre Party and 46 for the Conservative Party. Mr Lipponen's main partner in the ruling "rainbow coalition".

A similar alliance is expected to underpin the next government, but after their best electoral performance the Conservatives are likely to demand an increase in their five cabinet seats.

The premier, considered his country's most powerful politician ahead of President Martti Ahtisaari, was the driving force behind Finland's entry into the single currency, cementing the transition from it being an uneasy neighbour of Russia to the European mainstream. He is seen as a key to a successful Finnish presidency of the EU later this year.



Brady Tucker, 4 (left) and her cousin Terina Tucker, 6, looking out nervously from the evacuation centre at Saint Luke's college in Karratha, Western Australia yesterday. They were evacuated from the coastal town of Onslow as cyclone Vance approached

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Woman dies in 'satanic ritual'

A BELGIAN woman aged 35 died near the town of Alicante in southern Spain after being subjected to ritual satanic abuse in her own home, Spanish police said yesterday. Her Spanish husband was among four suspects detained in connection with the death, apparently caused by a ritual attempt to drive evil spirits from her body.

Nataly Castlesor was admitted to hospital in a coma on Saturday with her body covered with knife wounds and burns, according to reports. She died shortly afterwards from heart and respiratory failure caused by the wounds.

BY ELIZABETH NASH
in Madrid

The four suspects, two men and two women, appeared in court yesterday to make a statement, and a woman was subsequently freed.

The victim had lived a few miles from the village of L'Alfas del Pi near the resort town of Alicante on the Costa Blanca for several years. A search of the detached house she shared with her husband and their two sons, eight and five months, turned up implements and objects "that point to the activities carried out by a ritual sect", the authorities said.

IN BRIEF

French condemn Concorde

CONCORDE'S DAYS could be numbered, after Air France last night said it expected to take its seven supersonic airliners out of service within eight years because they were too expensive to operate. British Airways said it believed its seven would continue to be profitable and there were no plans to withdraw them.

Ecevit wins no-confidence vote

THE TURKISH government of Bulent Ecevit survived a no-confidence vote as parliament buried an Islamic-backed attempt to cancel general elections on 18 April. The Virtue Party was hoping to lift a political ban on the Islamic movement's former leader, Necmettin Erbakan, whom the army pushed out of power in 1997.

Pygmies helping Ugandan rebels

THE UGANDAN army is investigating reports that Pygmies are assisting rebels working to destabilise the government. Villagers in western Uganda also had complained that Pygmies were terrorising them, the independent Monitor newspaper said.

Pope's millennial visit to Holy Land

The Pope announced that he intended to make a historic visit to the Holy Land next March to mark the start of Christianity's third millennium. The visit to Israel and Palestinian self-rule areas follows talks in Jerusalem between Israel's Tourism Ministry and Vatican officials.

Pheasants slaughter each other

MORE THAN 1,000 pheasants living in overcrowded conditions on a Romanian farm killed one another. The prize pheasants began pecking one another to death at Pausa, a famous farm in Transylvania. The attacks apparently began because they didn't have enough room.

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BRIEF

Anglian gives shares

Anglian Water has given shares to its employees as part of a long-term incentive scheme. The shares are given to employees who have been with the company for at least five years and are worth up to £10,000 each.

Somerville goes

Somerville has gone to the United States to promote its new book, 'The Secret Life of the City'. The book is a collection of stories about the city's hidden life and is available in paperback for £5.99.

Regent deal collapses

The deal between Regent and the British Film Institute for the distribution of the film 'The English Patient' has collapsed. The deal was worth £10 million but the two sides could not agree on the terms of the agreement.

Rock Man

Rock Man is a new album by the band 'The Rockers'. It features a collection of hard-rocking songs and is available in CD format for £9.99.

INTEREST R

UK 10 YEAR	US 10 YEAR	EURO 10 YEAR
6.50%	5.50%	5.00%
3 MONTH	4.50%	4.00%
6 MONTH	4.75%	4.25%
1 YEAR	5.00%	4.50%

MONEY MARKET RATES

LIBOR	OFFER	DEMAND
3 MONTH	4.50%	4.75%
6 MONTH	4.75%	5.00%
1 YEAR	5.00%	5.25%

CURRENCY

UNIT	PRICE
US DOLLAR	1.65
EURO	1.35
YEN	160

OTHER INDIC

INDEX	VALUE
FTSE 100	5,200
DAX	3,500
Nikkei	12,000

TOURIST R

TOURIST	PRICE
EUROPE	£100
ASIA	£150
AMERICA	£200

POUND

COUNTRY	PRICE
USA	1.65
EURO	1.35
YEN	160

OTHER INDIC

INDEX	VALUE
FTSE 100	5,200
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Nikkei	12,000

TOURIST R

TOURIST	PRICE
EUROPE	£100
ASIA	£150
AMERICA	£200

Business & City Editor, Jeremy Warner
News desk: 0171-293 2636 Fax: 0171-293 2098

BUSINESS

BRIEFING

Anglian gives shareholders £44m

ANGLIAN GROUP, the building materials company, is to return £44m to shareholders via a special payment of 50p a share. The payout follows a balance sheet reorganisation, the company said, and leaves sufficient resources to fund organic growth and make any appropriate acquisitions. Eddie Boss, Anglian's chief executive, said: "The return of cash and a more efficient capital structure are in line with our aim to maximise total shareholder returns". Shares in Anglian, which also said current order intake was ahead of last year, closed up 31.5p at 286p.

Somerfield goes direct



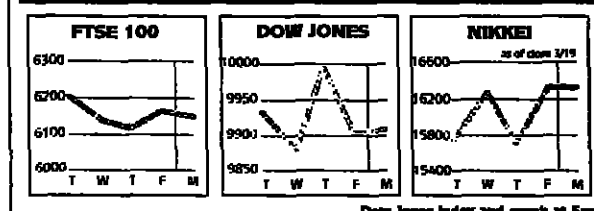
SOMERFIELD, the supermarket chain, has launched a home shopping division, Somerfield Direct. It will bring together all of Somerfield's existing remote shopping businesses, and will be chaired by group finance director Martin Gatto (pictured). Somerfield also announced yesterday the purchase of Flanagan's, a London-based home

shopping business, for £3.25m. Flanagan's will be integrated into Somerfield Direct.

Regent deal collapses

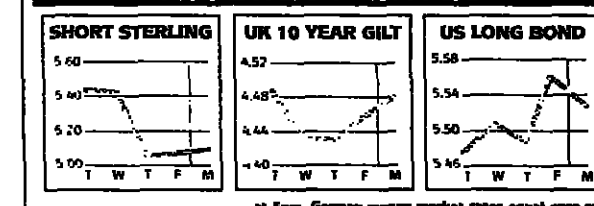
ATTEMPTS to forge a non-premium all-share merger deal between pub groups Regent Inns and SPT collapsed after the two sides were unable to agree a price. Regent, whose brands include the Walkabout Inns chain of Australian theme pubs and Jongleurs comedy clubs, is believed to have been pushing for a larger share of the merged company reflecting its slightly larger market capitalisation. SPT, whose brands include the Litten Tree and the Fur Your Eyes Only chain of lap dancing clubs, wanted a 50:50 split, while Regent was holding to the 60:40 split originally agreed. In a statement issued after the stock market closed, Regent said last night it felt it was better placed to "enhance shareholder value as an independent company".

STOCK MARKETS



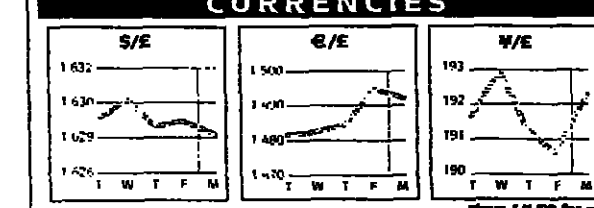
Index	Close	Change	Change (%)	52 wk High	52 wk Low	Yield (%)
FTSE 100	6152.80	-19.40	-0.31	6365.40	4599.20	2.64
FTSE 250	5486.40	-12.60	-0.23	5970.90	4247.60	3.00
FTSE 350	2935.10	-5.30	-0.18	3024.90	2210.40	2.70
FTSE All Share	2843.04	-14.14	-0.50	2923.83	2143.53	2.74
FTSE SmallCap	2399.10	12.40	0.52	2793.80	1834.40	3.62
FTSE Fledgling	1303.00	2.90	0.22	1517.10	1046.20	4.08
FTSE AIM	856.70	5.60	0.66	1146.90	781.30	1.07
FTSE Europe 100	2895.32	-13.72	-0.54	3079.27	2018.15	2.04
FTSE Europe 300	1251.72	-12.38	-0.99	1332.07	880.63	1.95
Dow Jones	9906.54	-5.27	-0.05	10085.31	7400.30	1.60
Nikkei	16378.78	660.46	4.21	17111.59	12787.90	0.86
Hong Kong	11107.24	24.32	0.22	11826.16	6544.79	3.21
Dax	5027.06	-72.42	-1.42	6217.83	3833.71	1.71
S&P 500	1299.82	0.53	0.04	1323.88	923.52	1.24
Nasdaq	2419.21	-8.06	-0.33	2533.44	1357.09	0.28
Corbin 300	6611.80	12.98	0.20	7837.70	5320.90	1.60
Brazil Bovespa	10684.72	-151.14	-1.40	12339.14	4575.69	5.35
Belgium Bel20	3220.82	-31.67	-0.95	3713.21	2686.26	2.00
Amsterdam Euronext	544.27	-2.90	-0.53	600.65	366.98	1.99
France CAC 40	4197.06	-22.59	-0.54	4404.94	2881.21	1.72
Milano MIB30	36606.00	-614.00	-1.65	39170.00	24175.00	1.07
Madrid IBS 35	2885.10	-118.60	-4.18	3089.80	689.00	1.72
Irish Allshare	5415.70	34.55	0.64	5581.70	3732.57	1.54
S Korea Comp	607.74	3.52	0.58	651.95	277.37	0.95
Australia ASX	2985.50	1.00	0.03	2996.30	2386.70	3.02

INTEREST RATES



Index	3 month	Yr chg	1 Year	Yr chg	10 Year	Yr chg	Long bond	Yr chg
UK	5.36	-2.21	5.30	-2.26	4.48	-1.43	4.47	-1.37
US	5.00	-0.69	5.31	-0.51	5.17	0.40	5.33	0.35
Japan	0.19	-0.51	0.23	-0.42	1.78	-0.03	2.59	0.22
Germany	3.02	-0.50	3.01	-0.78	3.97	-0.90	4.95	-0.48

CURRENCIES



POUND				DOLLAR			
	at Spot	Change	Yr Ago		at Spot	Change	Yr Ago
Dollar	1.6283	-0.02c	1.6775	Sterling	0.6141	-0.01p	0.59
Euro	1.4910	-0.35c	1.4079	Euro	0.9163	-17.30c	0.85
Yen	192.28	+11.21	218.90	Yen	118.17	+10.84	130.
S index	103.00	+0.20	107.40	S index	107.60	+0.20	109.

OTHER INDICATORS

Index	Close	Chg	Yr Age	Index	Close	Chg	Yr Age
Brent Oil (\$)	13.27	0.10	12.65	GDP 115.40	3.00	112.04	Mar
Gold (\$)	284.35	0.10	291.75	RPI 163.40	2.40	159.57	Mar
Silver (\$)	5.07	0.04	5.93	Base Rates	5.50	7.25	

TOURIST RATES

Australia (\$)	2.4938	Mexican (nuevo peso)	14.46
Austria (schillings)	19.94	Netherlands (guilders)	3.1953
Belgium (francs)	58.59	New Zealand (\$)	2.9335
Canada (\$)	2.3983	Norway (krone)	12.29
Cyprus (pounds)	0.8385	Portugal (escudos)	289.28
Denmark (krone)	10.86	Saudi Arabia (rials)	5.9269
Finland (markka)	8.6591	Singapore (\$)	2.6576
France (francs)	5.9224	South Africa (rand)	9.6340
Germany (marks)	2.8488	Spain (pesetas)	240.90
Greece (drachmas)	467.40	Sweden (kronor)	13.05
Hong Kong (\$)	12.22	Switzerland (francs)	2.3292
Ireland (pounds)	1.1422	Thailand (bahts)	54.94
India (rupees)	62.00	Turkey (liras)	570788
Israel (shekels)	6.0468	USA (\$)	1.5891
Italy (lira)	2822		
Japan (yen)	187.31		
Malaysia (ringgits)	5.8695		
Malta (lira)	0.6201		

Rates for indication purposes only

Source: Thomas Cook

Arnault gets upper hand in Gucci battle

BY PETER THAL LARSEN

Gucci had stunned investors on Friday when it announced a deal to sell a 40 per cent stake in the company to Pinault-Printemps-Redoute, the retail group controlled by Mr Pinault, in return for a \$3bn cash injection which valued Gucci at \$75 a share.

The court yesterday blocked provisions of the deal which would have allowed PPR to appoint three new directors to Gucci's board, giving the French group control of a key strategic and financial committee. It also restored voting rights to LVMH's 34.4 per cent shareholding, which would have been diluted. However, the ruling gives a green light for PPR to take its shareholding in Gucci.

Gucci said yesterday it would "seriously consider" an offer for the company, pitched at \$81 per share, which was tabled by LVMH on Sunday. The

two companies are due to start negotiations on the proposed takeover in the next few days.

LVMH made the bid after Gucci's board rejected an earlier offer of \$65 a share, which was conditional on the company abandoning its deal with PPR. Gucci said it could not accept the bid because it did not apply to all its shareholders.

Under the terms of the revised offer, LVMH is effectively offering to pay Mr Pinault \$240m more for his stake than

he agreed to pay for it on Friday. However, it is unclear whether Mr Pinault will walk away or decide to launch a full takeover bid himself.

The moves follow another twist in the battle for control of Gucci, which has dragged on for more than six months. In another dramatic day Domenico de Sole, Gucci's chief executive, and Pierre Gaudet, an LVMH board member, faced each other in a crowded courtroom in Amsterdam, where Gucci's shares are listed. Mr Gaudet told the court LVMH had been "shocked and disappointed" by Gucci's deal with PPR, which was announced on the morning that Gucci and LVMH had been due to start negotiating about board representation for the French group.

But Mr de Sole defended the move: "We have turned Gucci from a company that was almost bankrupt to a multi-billion dollar enterprise," he said.

Taylor wins a £1.6m pay-off from Barclays

BY ANDREW GARFIELD
Financial Editor

MARTIN TAYLOR, who shocked the City when he walked out on his £1m-a-year job as chief executive of Barclays Bank last November, has negotiated a £1.6m pay-off with his former employer.

Mr Taylor, who until his departure was regarded as one of the most promising business leaders of his generation, is also expected to be allowed to cash in share options worth, on the basis of yesterday's share price, at least £5m.

The pay-off, revealed in Barclays's annual report, is substantially higher than had been expected. Mr Taylor was on a one-year contract. The settlement is based on the package, including performance-related bonuses and share options, that Mr Taylor could have expected to have received had he stayed on for another year.

The report, which was posted to shareholders yesterday, also reveals that Mr Taylor, 46, received a total pay and bonus package of £957,000 last year - a rise of 30 per cent on the £738,000 he received in 1997. In addition he made profits of more than £300,000 on his existing share options.

This was in spite of a series of setbacks culminating in the £350m charge against last year's accounts to cover Russian bond losses, and the bank's participation in the \$3.75bn (£2.3bn) bail-out of the troubled US hedge fund, Long-Term Capital, which undermined boardroom confidence in the chief executive and sowed the seeds for his dramatic departure.

The salary of Andrew Buxton, who retires as chairman at next month's annual meeting,



Martin Taylor (left) with chairman Andrew Buxton: Barclays may be about to undergo a dramatic shakeup

fell from £579,000 to £533,000.

Mr Taylor's replacement, Mike O'Neill, a former chief financial officer of the American banking giant BankAmerica, is due to take up his new post on Friday.

Mr O'Neill, whose arrival is said to herald a dramatic shake-up, will receive a total compensation package worth £15m over three years, making him by far the highest paid banker in the UK, although it is a relatively modest salary by American standards.

Since Mr Taylor quit, Bar-

clays shares have risen by more than 27 per cent. He has re-emerged to head a new pro-European but anti-euro think tank with Lord Owen.

Derek Wanless, the chief executive of National Westminster Bank whose pay was also disclosed to shareholders yesterday, saw his salary nearly double to £832,000 last year from £450,000 in 1997. That still left him trailing Mr Taylor, despite the strong turnaround in NatWest's results last year.

The huge jump in Mr Wanless's salary was mainly be-

cause in that year - the *annus horribilis* in which NatWest Markets, the bank's equity capital markets business, fell into the red - Mr Wanless waived his performance-related bonus, worth £350,000 last year.

Martin Owen, who headed NatWest Markets, later resigned and the business was sold.

Lord Alexander, who steps down this year as chairman in favour of Sir David Rowland, the former chairman of Lloyd's of London, saw his salary rise from £434,000 to £720,000 last

year. Lord Alexander also waived his bonus in 1997. Paul Myners, the head of Gartmore, the fund management group bought by NatWest, quadrupled his salary to £457,000. He too refused a 1997 bonus due to Gartmore's poor investment performance that year.

As of 31 December 1998, Mr Wanless is sitting on share options worth £1.82m at yesterday's share price of £14.

Lord Alexander last year made a profit of £90,000 from exercising options. He is still sitting on options worth £1.4m.

Growth slowdown boosts rate hopes

ECONOMIC GROWTH in the UK almost ground to a halt in the final three months of last year, according to revised figures out yesterday. This will help tilt the balance in favour of lower interest rates next month, analysts said.

"Taken with the minutes of the last meeting, this suggests the Monetary Policy Committee will cut rates," said Steven Bell, chief UK economist at Deutsche Bank.

The level of gross domestic product edged up by just 0.1 per cent in the final quarter, revised down from 0.2 per cent. Growth for the year as a whole was a subdued 1.1 per cent.

The figures showed consumer spending keeping the economy from entering outright recession. Household spending was higher than in-

BY DIANE COYLE
Economics Editor

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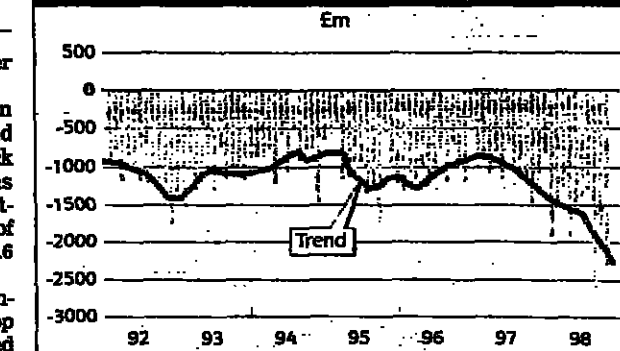
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tionally estimated, up by 0.6 per cent on the quarter.

UK TRADE IN GOODS GETTING WORSE



Britain has been in the black for two years running. But the underlying trends were less favourable. The deficit on trade in goods climbed to £6.3bn in the fourth quarter, the highest since 1989. Last year's shortfall was the

surprisingly good news on the surplus at the tail end of last year was a record surplus on net income from direct investment, resulting from the higher losses repatriated by foreign-owned banks and oil companies. This boosted the balance of payments overall by £7.5bn in the fourth quarter and £18.8bn during the year.

Levels of both outward and inward direct investment reached new highs last year. British companies invested £85bn abroad, up from £38.5bn in 1997. This included the £32.6bn BP acquisition of US oil company Amoco.

Foreign companies invested £38.1bn in the UK, up from £22.6bn in 1997. But the pace of inward investment into Britain slowed sharply in the final quarter of last year.

The real explanation for the

There was no indication from MediaOne yesterday that it intended bailing out of either One2One or Telewest. Even so, the marriage to Comcast means that the contribution to revenues from international operations will shrink from 20 per cent as it is now for MediaOne, to 10 per cent.

Comcast has wide interests in the US, including a 57 per cent stake in QVC, the home shopping network, as well as holdings in the E! and Golf channels and two Philadelphia sporting franchises. Among the owners of Comcast is Microsoft. Bill Gates paid \$1bn for an 11.5 per cent stake in Comcast in 1997.

The cable industry is banking heavily on its ability to break into the fast-growing Internet market. Its broadband networks have an advantage over telephone lines as they can deliver sound and moving pictures more quickly.

Elif and Total were hit, falling 1.35 per cent and 1.73 per cent respectively. Other stocks followed as traders worried about the inflationary impact of the recovery in oil prices. The CAC-40 index fell 0.54 per cent to 4,197.06 in subdued trading.

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AROUND THE WORLD'S MARKETS

LONDON

BLUE CHIPS turned in another lacklustre display with Footsie, at one time up 38.9 points, ending 10.4 down at 6,152.8. Proposed dividend payments accounted for about half the fall.

Much of the day's action occurred on the market undercard with the small cap index gaining 12.4 to 2,399.1 following a further outbreak of takeover action.

Dixons, the electrical retailer, was again one of the day's top performers.

Derek Pain, page 21

NEW YORK

US BLUE CHIPS made modest gains yesterday in quiet trading, with the Dow up 12 points to 9916 by 1.30pm New York time.

Internet stocks underpinned the market as traders anticipated a settlement of the anti-trust action against Microsoft by the US authorities, and ING Barings published bullish research on the sector. But computer stocks fell slightly on negative earnings news from IBM and Dell. US Treasuries were boosted by a \$7bn bond offering by AT&T.

HONG KONG

SHARES ADVANCED modestly in the absence of any prompting from Tokyo, where the market was closed for a public holiday. The Hang Seng closed up 24.32 points, or 0.22 per cent, at 11,107.24.

The gains built on a 3.7 per cent rise on Friday, when the index topped the 11,000 watershed. Traders said they were expecting China to enter the World Trade Organisation when Zhu Rongji, the Chinese Premier, visits Washington next month.

MILAN

SHARES IN Italy closed lower after a volatile day's trading which saw some stocks suspended because of excessive gains. The Mib30 index of leading shares slipped 1.65 per cent to 36,606.

Weekend news of two giant banking mergers initially pushed shares higher. Banca di Roma closed 7.88 per cent up while San Paolo fell 5.31 per cent. BCI closed up 5 per cent while Unicredit fell by the same amount.

PARIS

PARIS SHARES slipped yesterday as traders worried about the inflationary impact of the recovery in oil prices. The CAC-40 index fell 0.54 per cent to 4,197.06 in subdued trading.

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Patel in £214m bid for health group

BY JOHN WILLCOCK

CHAI PATEL is making a comeback in the healthcare sector with a recommended cash offer for Westminster Health Care Holdings that values the nursing homes group at £214m.

Dr Patel, former chairman of Court Cavendish Group and former chief executive of Care-First Group, has formed a new vehicle, Canterbury Healthcare (CHC), to take Westminster private.

The offer is worth 311p per share, representing a premium of 68 per cent over the closing price of Westminster on 19 March. There will be a partial loan note alternative available.

Dr Patel said Westminster's board had unanimously agreed to recommend that shareholders accept the offer. He said: "We very much want to work with Westminster's management."

"The nursing home sector has been through a very difficult period. But we're taking a long-term view, and over the long term the prospects for the sector are very good," he said.

Dr Patel will become chief executive of the enlarged group, while Westminster's chief executive, Pat Carter, will act as a consultant. Mr Carter owns about 3 per cent of Westminster's stock, or 2.7 million shares, worth £8.3m under the terms of the deal.

The deal fitted with the vehicle's long-term growth strategy, said Dr Patel. Canterbury's investors include private equity funds managed by US investment bank Goldman Sachs, as well as a number of large US healthcare funds.

Westminster, which is one of the UK's largest private-sector healthcare providers to the elderly, has 95 nursing homes with about 5,800 beds. It made pre-tax profits before exceptional items of £16.1m in the year to 31 May 1998 on sales of £134.6m.

The principal investors in CHC will be Whitehall Street Real Estate Limited Partnership XI, GS Capital Partners (funds affiliated with Goldman Sachs), an American healthcare fund called Welsh, Carson, Anderson & Stowe and WCAS Capital Partners.

Canterbury is also backed by Anthony Heywood, a long-time colleague of Dr Patel and a former finance director of Court Cavendish Group and former executive director of Care-First.

News Analysis: This time oil price rises may stick, spelling near-term economic danger

Why Opec's back in business

BY LEA PATERSON

THE ORGANISATION OF Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec), which meets in Vienna today, is back in business as a key influence on world oil production.

After several years during which Opec's ability to influence oil prices has waned, there are high hopes that it will be able to strike a deal to curb production and provide a much-needed boost to the oil industry.

Oil prices have already soared to a five-month high amid market hopes of effective Opec action. Two weeks ago, at a pre-summit meeting in the Netherlands, key Opec members hammered out a series of proposals for production cuts.

Talk of production cuts was, in itself, nothing new. Just last year, for example, Opec agreed a range of supply reductions, but widespread cheating on quotas meant there was no substantial impact on prices.

This time round, though, the market seems to be convinced that Opec—which is expected to ratify its pre-summit proposals in Vienna today—can make the new quotas stick. As a result, oil prices are running almost 40 per cent higher than they were during the autumn's 12-year lows.

Analysts have identified several factors that should help to support the oil price in the short term. First, there are political considerations. Part of the reason why supply cutbacks failed to materialise last year was a long-running rivalry between Saudi Arabia and Iran.

Last year, Iran was not actively involved in negotiating the quotas, and objected vehemently to the cuts proposed by rival Opec nations. In recent weeks there has been an attempt at reconciliation by Saudi Arabia and Iran, Opec's two largest producers, with Saudi's Prince Abdullah doing much of the running.

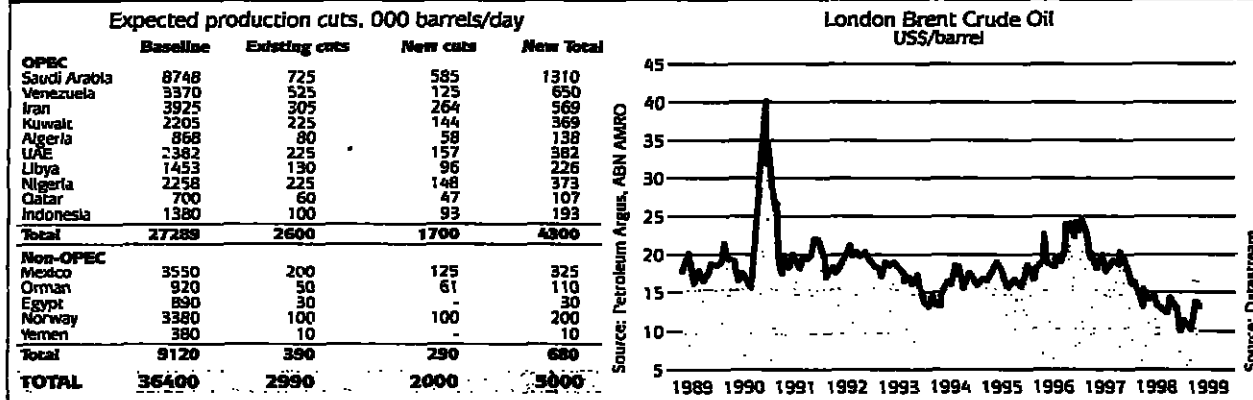
The two nations have been spearheading this latest attempt to cap oil supply. "Saudi Arabia and Iran seemed to have patched up their difficulties," said Stephen Lewis, chief economist at Monument Derivatives. "The shift in the Saudi position is a new element in the situation."

Second, it has historically been easier for Opec to implement production cuts when oil prices are rising, as they are at the moment, than when they are falling, as they were for most of last year. As Mr Lewis said: "If Opec governments are able to recoup



High hopes: Nigeria's oil minister, Rasheed Abiodun Gbadamosi, arrives at a Vienna hotel for the crucial Opec summit today Ronald Zak/AP

OIL PRICE RISES ON PRODUCTION CUT HOPES



however, this rise in the oil price could spell danger. Michael Saunders, at Salomon Smith Barney/Citibank, has calculated that if Brent prices rise to \$15 a barrel, inflation in the euro area could be boosted by up to half a percentage point this year and as much as 1.5 points next year as the rise in production costs feeds through to consumer prices.

A rise in inflation presents risks to growth, and there are fears in the markets that a resurgence in commodity inflation could prompt the world's monetary authorities to put up interest rates. Those countries with no oil reserves of their own—such as Japan—have the most to lose. Already the yen has weakened substantially against the dollar amid fears that an oil price rise could damage any economic recovery in the region.

Of course, this all needs to be kept in proportion—the power that Opec wields over the world economy is far less than during its heyday of two decades ago. But recent events have shown that it would be premature to write off the organisation altogether.

For the rest of the economy,

through higher prices the potential losses in revenues stemming from production cuts, they can afford to be more relaxed about the situation than when both output and prices are declining.

Third, the economic havoc wreaked by the recent low oil prices in Opec countries—many of which are almost wholly dependent on oil revenues—has toughened the political will to make the new quotas work.

Senior officials from all the Opec nations have been talking tough in recent days. There has been a realisation throughout the region that if Opec doesn't

act, the economic misery will only get worse.

In the short term, therefore, the market seems convinced that oil will hold on to its recent price gains. However, in the longer term sentiment is far more bearish. Few experts believe the oil price will continue to chalk up sizeable gains.

Fewer still think Opec will achieve its stated aim of pushing the price of West Texas Intermediate, currently running at around \$15 a barrel, back to the \$18 to \$20 range. Fundamentals are weak—world oil demand is expected to grow by only 1 per cent this

year, while stock overhangs in oil-producing countries remain high. The incentives to cheat on the quotas will increase as the oil price rises. And Opec is far less powerful than it was during the 1970s, when it had a virtual stranglehold over oil supply. It now controls less than one-third of world production.

Rachel Beaver, analyst at ABN AMRO, said: "Last week's surge in oil prices clearly owed more to sentiment than to fundamentals, which indicate demand remaining sluggish, stocks high and spare upstream capacity."

Even if the oil price falls

short of Opec's optimistic expectations, its recent mini-recovery has important implications for the world economy. For the world's oil producers, it's great news. London benchmark Brent crude now stands at around \$13.50 a barrel, well off last year's low of less than \$10.

Industry rule-of-thumb is that it is difficult for most producers to make any money at all when London Brent falls below \$12 a barrel. Not surprisingly, then, the recent turn of events has put a smile back on the faces of oil barons the world over.

For the rest of the economy,

COMPANY RESULTS

Name	Turnover (£)	Pre-tax (£)	EPS	Dividend	Pay day	X-div
Alcan Group (F)	144.77m (135.64m)	18.1m (17.2m)	23.51p (24.24p)	—	—	—
Asia Property Holdings (F)	34.3m (37.8m)	11.3m (8.6m)	6.1p (5.2p)	3.25p (3p)	30.06.99	01.08.99
Britannia Group (F)	58.66m (45.77m)	3.16m (4.795m)	1.1p (2.2p)	2.1p (—)	06.01.99	28.04.99
Care Group (F)	41.01m (41.01m)	—	—	—	—	—
CRC Group (F)	22.4m (12.7m)	2.013m (0.333m)	0.35p (7.54p)	3p (—)	27.04.99	28.08.99
CA Credit Holdings (F)	33.428m (26.708m)	2.286m (2.016m)	13.7p (12.5p)	4p (3.6p)	19.05.99	19.04.99
F&M Holdings (F)	11.963m (156.95m)	16.89m (14.25m)	35.1p (30.7p)	10.35p (8.75p)	—	—
Plying Partners (F)	52.06m (43.341m)	12.5m (10.4m)	12.75p (7.35p)	7.35p (7.35p)	—	—
Friends (very & Sons (18 sat))	32.70m (—)	14.05m (—)	8.45p (—)	0.08p (0.07p)	01.08.99	28.08.99
Meridian (F)	29.15m (32.36m)	0.975m (3.58m)	3.5p (10.4p)	1.6p (2.4p)	04.09.99	—
Monmouth Oil & Gas (F)	81.23m (89.05m)	7.81m (19.82m)	0.91p (2.74p)	—	—	—
Morgan Crucible (F)	9.004m (880.7m)	33.9m (112.1m)	25.5p (27.4p)	15.9p (15.5p)	06.07.99	04.05.99
Reister Healthcare Group (F)	253.9m (172.4m)	12.5m (17.4m)	11.25p (—)	26.05p (26.05p)	26.05.99	28.04.99
Newsquest (F)	395.77m (285.57m)	69.97m (51.80m)	21.2p (11.5p)	28.05p (—)	28.05.99	12.04.99
Papillon Therapeutics (F)	0.731m (3.2m)	—	—	—	—	—
Ramco Energy (F)	7.177m (15.8m)	—	—	—	—	—
Redwood Group (F)	114.2m (113.2m)	17.5m (15.7m)	21.5p (19.1p)	8p (—)	05.05.99	28.03.99
South Country Homes (F)	—	—	—	—	—	—
Transref (F)	388.92m (349.32m)	13.862m (15.742m)	6.1p (7.1p)	2.8p (2.7p)	12.07.99	07.08.99
TT Group (F)	819.9m (831.6m)	65m (62.5m)	27.9p (28.2p)	9.79p (8.79p)	27.05.99	10.05.99
Wincor Group (F)	32.978m (22.799m)	1.907m (1.874m)	2.3p (2.3p)	0.8p (0.8p)	03.06.99	19.04.99

(F) - Final (I) - Interim * Before Exceptionals

Swansea Dry Docks closed

THE CLOSURE of the Swansea Dry Docks company yesterday by the Cayman Islands-based Ugland International Holdings group ends 60 years of ship repairing at the South Wales port, writes Tony Head.

The move means the loss of the jobs of 200 full and part-time staff, many highly skilled and well paid.

Hopes for the company's long-term future were high when vehicle shipping group Ugland bought the docks six years ago, with the ferry com-

panies P&O and Stena among users. But competition from overseas, notably Poland, and unfavourable exchange rates squeezed the business. In 1997 it lost £492,000 on turnover of £5m, rising in 1998 to a £4.3m loss on turnover of £4.6m.

Ugland, which wrote off the £3.5m value of the business in its results, is hoping to sell the site as development land.

The group's chief executive, Jonathan Palmer, said the company was not prepared to go on keeping the dry docks afloat. "It [the closure] is regrettable and we are sorry about it, but we are not in the business of losing money," he said.

Ugland is focusing on its global business of shipping

vehicles and preparing them at ports, particularly on the US Atlantic seaboard. Ugland last year recorded a 17 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £15.7m on an £80.3m turnover.

Swansea's maritime tradition was founded more than a century ago on coal exports, but today only one deep mine is still in production in Wales.

Swansea Cork Ferries runs regular crossings between Wales and Cork, and much of the inner harbour has been turned into a yachting marina overlooked by flats and houses.

The first dry dock was built in 1923 and the second in 1959. The redundant site could be destined for a makeover similar to London Docklands.

CLASSIFIED

Legal Notices

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR NEW JUSTICES LICENCE
LICENSING ACT 1964
COURT: Haverhill Road Magistrates' Court, London, SW7
HEARING DATE/TIME: Thursday 8 April 1999 at 10.30am
PREMISES: Puma Bar, 35-36 Row Street, London, WC2
APPLICANT: Mark Brown
ADDRESS: Flat A, 33A Hordell Hill Gardens, Clerkenwell, London, EC1
TRADE OR CALLING: Director/Licensee
APPLICANT: Paul Brown
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TT ponders higher offer for Hall

TT GROUP is considering whether to raise its bid for Hall Engineering and will announce its decision by Friday, the engineering firm said yesterday, writes Peter Thal Larsen.
John Newman, TT executive chairman, said the group had been waiting to see Hall's accounts, released last week. "We are seriously contemplating raising our offer," he said.
TT has cut 540 jobs, 6 per cent of its workforce, this year. The cuts, which will trigger a £1.5m charge, were in response to the pound's strength, which caused a 2 per cent fall in turnover and limited pre-tax profits to £55m, up 4 per cent.
In January, TT launched a hostile bid for Hall worth £51.8m. Hall rejected it as "derisory". Hall shares were unchanged at 140p yesterday. TT shares closed up 1.5p at 195p.

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IN BRIEF

Victory considers buying Cadoro

VICTORY, the holding company for Richard Branson's Virgin Clothing company, said it was considering buying Cadoro, the menswear retailer, after lending the company £5.2m in a failed bid to stop it collapsing. In the past five weeks, Victory has lent the money to Cadoro, which sells Virgin Clothing and owns the Capolito Roma brand, to avert a cash flow crisis, but yesterday the company went into administration.

Victory, an AIM-listed company 55 per cent owned by Mr Branson, is now in talks with PriceWaterhouseCoopers, the administrators, over the purchase of Cadoro.

Flowers droops

SHARES in Flying Flowers, the troubled mail-order plants group, tumbled 7 per cent to 309p yesterday after the group announced a 19 per cent fall in profits. The company, which last week announced the departure of its chairman and two other directors, said sales at its key Gardening Direct division were unlikely this year to return to 1997 levels.

Schroder assets

SHARES in Schroder Ventures International Investment Trust jumped by 13 per cent to 232.5p as the company said its assets had risen in value by one-third. Net asset value per share rose to 287.7p as the company revalued its stake in Charles Voegele, a Swiss clothing retailer that plans to float later this year.

Nationwide free

NATIONWIDE BUILDING Society said it is abolishing all charges for using cash machines in any part of the world. Current account holders will be able to make withdrawals at no charge from 500,000 Visa machines and 350,000 Cirrus machines.

TI's jet parts buy

TI GROUP, the engineer, is to buy a maker of jet engine components for \$58m (£35m) in cash. Tri-Manufacturing, an Indiana-based US company owned by GE Aircraft Engines, will be integrated into TI Group's Dowty Turbine Engine Components (D-TEC) business. TI estimated the one-off cost of integration to be \$3m (£1.8m), and said that Tri-Manufacturing would be earnings-enhancing in its first full year within the group.

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Rates for quarterly interest on balances of £1 or more		
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The total rate would then be 26.5%.

* Gross Rate - interest is payable gross to non-taxpayers subject to the required certification. AER - stands for Annual Equivalent Rate and illustrates what the interest rate would be if interest was paid and compounded each year.

† The current Base Rate is 5.5%, this may vary.

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No point in this supermarket probe

THE SUPERMARKETS have become resigned in recent weeks to the likelihood of a full Monopolies and Mergers Commission investigation, both of their prices and the way they treat suppliers. The Office of Fair Trading is expected to publish the findings of its preliminary probe by the end of the month and, given what the Chancellor said in the Budget about his determination to crack down on "rip-off" Britain, the industry expects a reference shortly thereafter.

Nobody outside the City has much sympathy for the big supermarket groups, but even so, it is hard to see what an MMC inquiry is going to achieve, outside some political point-scoring.

There may be something to be said for putting the frighteners on an industry which undoubtedly attempts to squeeze both customers and suppliers in equal degree. But even if some form of complex monopoly, or series of local monopolies, does exist, what can the Government do about it? Another Price Commission? Heaven forbid. With the brewers, the Government settled on a break-up, but it didn't stop the price of beer from continuing to rise.



OUTLOOK

The truth of the matter is that it is possible to find most things that supermarkets sell at cheaper, and sometimes considerably cheaper, prices. Furthermore, most consumers know this. But it is inconvenient and very time-consuming to shop in this way. The trade-off, then, is between higher prices and inconvenience. The higher grocery prices that car-less people in deprived areas pay is a different issue. In fact, there are two obvious solutions to the problem of high supermarket prices. First we could join the euro, giving consumers access to the economies of scale that spring from extremely large trading regions. Second, we could allow our green and

pleasant land to be ploughed up for the development of American style shopping malls, and the roads to service them. Fundamentally, this is why prices are cheaper in the US - the economy is much larger and there are few planning constraints. For some reason the Government doesn't seem immediately inclined to either course of action.

Italian job

SWISS, SPANISH, French and now Italian banks are doing it - so why not British banks too? The urge to merge is sweeping the European banking sector but since Lloyds tied the knot with TSB, British banks have proved largely resilient to the process. Will they not be forced to join the party?

Some of them would dearly like to, but actually there is no reason why the latest outbreak of merger mania on the Continent should prompt any response over here. This heightened period of merger activity may have parochial significance, but internationally it is of little relevance.

The Italian banking scene - and to a lesser extent its counterparts

in France and Spain - is a highly fragmented one, with no bank having more than 8 per cent of the national market. Small in national terms, they are big in regional representation.

Each of the four parties involved in Italy's two proposed banking mergers have their own regional strongholds. As such, they are more akin to the coming together of a NatWest and Bank of Scotland, than a NatWest and Barclays.

Even after these mergers, there will be no single Italian bank which is bigger than Barclays or NatWest. So the idea that Continental banking mergers, which are in part a response to the free market reform being brought about by the introduction of the euro, could be a justification for consolidation in Britain too, doesn't really stack up.

In Britain, the Government remains as opposed to the idea of further banking consolidation as ever. Don Cruickshank has been instructed to conduct a wide-ranging investigation of banking on the Government's behalf, to establish whether the structure of the banking market short-changes the British economy, so the possibility of a public policy shift enabling

British banks to seek consolidating mergers seems remote.

So far, we've yet to see any significant cross-border merger activity, and that presumably has to be the next stage. Even with the birth of the euro, however, the cultural and structural obstacles to such mergers remain profound. British banks have been asked on a number of occasions what they might be able to do with Credit Lyonnais; unsurprisingly they have taken the view that this is a risk too far. Any opportunity that is not, in effect, a rescue, would probably be closed to them.

None the less, someone will eventually take the plunge. Regrettably - or mercifully, depending on your point of view - the regulatory and management obstacles involved will probably mean that when such a transaction does take place, it won't involve a British bank.

Meanwhile, the question on everyone's lips - will Italy's new-found love of Anglo-Saxon takeovers lead to the final demise of Enrico Cuccia, at 83 still the acknowledged Don of Italian capitalism? Rumour has it that actually he's been dead for years. His influence was almost entirely absent from these mergers, so if time's

winged chariot hasn't already carried him off, business realities seem to have done the job instead.

Sterling supreme

IF THERE is one signal above all others that indicates the British economy is likely to enjoy a soft rather than a hard landing, it is the strength of the pound. Everyone knows that sterling has been gaining ground against the beleaguered euro. But in trade-weighted terms, too, it has been climbing for most of this year, and is fast heading back towards the levels that made exporters squeal with pain last spring and summer.

It is hard to see any relief on the horizon for British manufacturers. The latest GDP figures confirmed that the economy had more or less stalled by the final quarter of last year, and it is likely to remain in the doldrums for the first half of this year. Trade in goods and services has weakened.

Yet this is pretty mild as downturns go. The Bank of England has cut interest rates decisively in response to early warnings of weakness. The Government's financial position is sound, in a dramatic

turnaround from the mid-1990s. The new monetary and fiscal policy framework has won trust in the financial markets.

What's more, it is hard to think of anywhere else investors might want to put their money. Euroland is slowing, with GDP in Germany and Italy in outright decline. The Nikkei in Japan has come off the bottom quite dramatically since the start of the year, largely in response to foreign interest, but few would bet the Japanese economy is out of the mire yet. Much of the emerging world economy is in recession. There is the American juggernaut, of course, but many investors already hold more in US assets than they might think wise in other circumstances.

So the strength of the pound is half a signal of confidence in the British economy, half a thumbs down for much of the rest of the world.

Whatever the balance of explanations, neither points to any exchange rate weakening on the horizon. Nor is there a lot the authorities can do about it. The strong pound has to be seen as a badge of pride, no matter how unwelcome it is to some exporters.

Bank workers vote to create super-union

NEARLY 200,000 employees at the big retail banks have voted overwhelmingly to create the world's largest financial sector union, it was announced yesterday.

About 95 per cent of the members of three existing unions opted for a merger they believe will give them far more muscle in dealing with management.

As the poll results were revealed, the new organisation disclosed that nine out of 10 of its members at NatWest had rejected a 3 per cent pay offer and seven of 10 wanted to hold a ballot on industrial action.

The new super-union - made up of BIFU, UNIFI and the NatWest Staff Association - declared its intention to expand even further, initially targeting the Lloyds TSB Group Union that claims to have a membership of 20,000.

Set to be formally established on 18 May, the new organisation will be called UNIFI, an amended version of the name of one of its constituents. The grouping hopes that part of its growth will come from recognition deals under the Employment Relations Bill scheduled to be enacted in the next 12 months.

BY BARRIE CLEMENT
Labour Editor

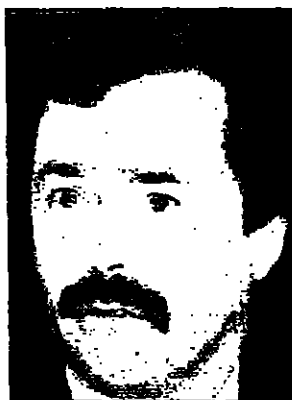
Ed Sweeney, general secretary of BIFU, who is expected to lead the new union after elections next year, said HSBC/Midland could be one of the first employers to be challenged under the new law.

Management at the bank withdrew union recognition rights from around 2,500 managers, many of whom have remained union members. Mr Sweeney believes that UNIFI will regain recognition automatically because the new union retains more than half the membership.

Welcoming the vote to create the new union, John Monks, general secretary of the Trades Union Congress, said: "I can see this becoming one of the great TUC trade unions very soon."

Mr Sweeney said it was clear that staff in the finance industry "needed and wanted one voice". He said the amalgamation mirrored existing mergers between financial institutions and was established in the knowledge that there were more to come.

The new organisation was a



Sweeney of BIFU: 'Staff need and want one voice'

symbol of the fact that employees' representatives had forgotten the antagonisms between unions and staff associations, from which the only beneficiaries had been management.

Membership of the new grouping would stand at 193,000, but there was a total of 1.5 million employees in the sector, a million of whom were in in-house staff associations and all of whom were potential members, Mr Sweeney said.

Among the targets were medium-sized and small insti-

tutions in the city, foreign-owned banks, building societies and insurance companies.

Rory Murphy, general secretary of the NatWest association, announced that the Royal & Sun Alliance staff association had decided to merge with his organisation and that talks were going ahead with other organisations. "Instead of beating the crap out of each other, we are now concentrating on management," said Mr Murphy.

Referring to a dispute at NatWest, he said the company had been making profits of £2bn, but were only prepared to offer up to 3 per cent to employees. "Some staff will get 3 per cent, others will get nothing," he said. His association would attempt to negotiate a better deal in the wake of the vote for a ballot on industrial action, he said.

In contrast Iain MacLean, assistant general secretary of UNIFI, said that an offer of 4 per cent at Barclays plus improvements in benefits was acceptable. "It shows it is possible to reach agreements with employers which benefit both the business and the employees," he said.

Profits plunge at Morgan Crucible Shortage pushes up house prices

MORGAN CRUCIBLE, the international ceramics and carbon group, yesterday posted a 70 per cent plunge in headline profits to £33.2m after being battered by slumping demand and a string of one-off costs.

The group, which provides advanced materials for use in aerospace, transport and electronics, warned in January that profits would be hit by a strike at General Motors and cutbacks at Boeing - two of its biggest customers.

The group was also hit by the knock-on effects of the Asian crisis. US steelmakers, struggling to fight off cheap Asian imports, cut their orders.

In response Morgan is undergoing a big restructuring, which will see it shed a total of 1,000 jobs worldwide, up to 300 of them in the UK, to achieve savings of £21m a year. It is also disposing of all but a core of

BY ANDREW VERITY

eight businesses, focusing on carbon and ceramics.

Yesterday Morgan said talks to sell its speciality chemicals business, by far the biggest chunk of its disposal programme, were nearing completion and named a figure of £174.3m. It also said it planned to buy back 15 per cent of its own shares this year.

Ian Norris, chief executive, said the changes would shrink the workforce from 15,500 to 13,600, while annual savings should be enough to return the group to growth.

After marking down the shares by 30 per cent in January, the City reacted mildly to the results. Profit on ordinary activities before exceptional items fell only 19 per cent to £51.1m, at the top end of expectations. The shares fell 3p to close at 247p.

HOUSE PRICES showed strong signs of recovery in the three months to the end of February, fuelled by a shortage of properties on the market, according to a survey by the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors (RICS), writes Andrew Verity.

The survey showed 34 per cent of chartered surveyor-estate agents reported a rise in prices in their area, while only 7 per cent reported a fall. The figures are more optimistic than at any time since last summer.

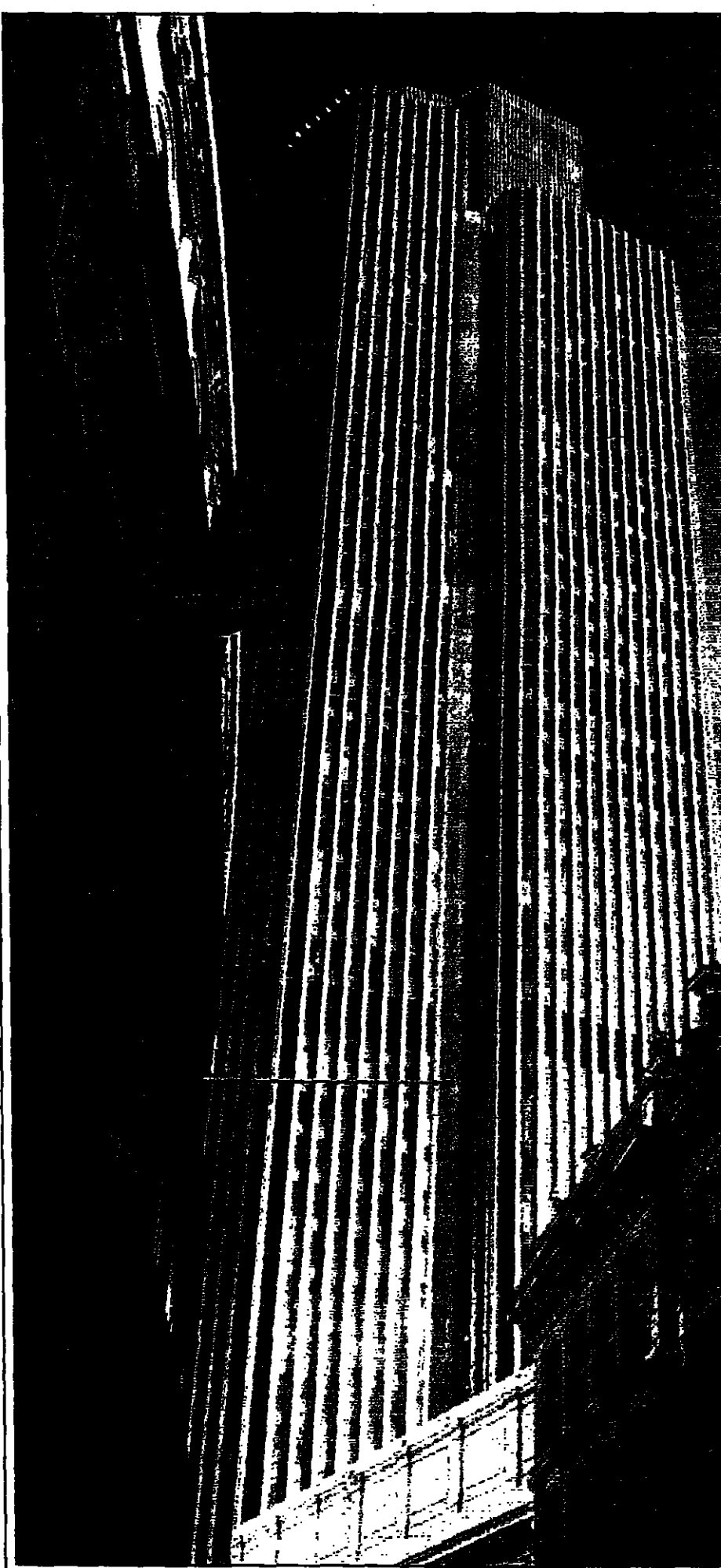
Confidence is strongest in London, where a balance of 45 per cent of surveyors reported price increases. As recently as December, the balance was 30 per cent reporting falling prices.

Spring is traditionally the strongest season for the housing market. But the Institute said prospects for the market were brighter even after this was taken into account.

RICS said the renewed optimism is yet to reach regions such as the Midlands and the North, where manufacturing redundancies are knocking buyers' confidence.

Gordon Brown's decision to abolish mortgage interest relief next year will bite harder outside London because it applies only to the first £30,000 of a mortgage. The tax relief represents a large chunk of the average mortgage outside London, where property values are lower.

But in London, an extra 0.5 per cent stamp duty on prices over £250,000 would take its toll. The stamp duty payable on a £250,000 house has now risen from £2,500 to £6,250 in two years. Ian Perry, housing market spokesman for RICS, said: "It may have some dampening effect at the top end of the housing market, particularly in London and South-east England."



The NatWest Tower in the City is co-owned by Greycoat, the subject of a £211m bid from Delancey Estates, a property group where George Soros holds 60 per cent.

Soros moves to buy the NatWest Tower

BY FRANCESCO GUERRERA

GEORGE SOROS, the financier whose bet against sterling rocked the City in 1992, yesterday moved to buy one of its most famous landmarks, the NatWest Tower, when one of his companies launched a £211m bid for the building's co-owner, Greycoat.

Delancey Estates - a property group where Mr Soros controls nearly 60 per cent of the shares - put an end to months of speculation by tabling a paper offer valuing each Greycoat share at around 195p.

The all-paper deal proposed by Delancey, where the chairman of British Land, John Rithlat, and his son James have a 30 per cent stake, was immediately rejected by the board of Greycoat, a specialist in central London office developments.

The Greycoat board slammed the offer by Delancey, which built up a stake of nearly 10 per cent over the past few months, as "derisory" and invited other bidders to enter the fray. The chief executive, Peter Thornton, said the company, which owns the NatWest Tower with Mercury Asset Management and Hermes, wanted to reward its long-suffering shareholders with a deal well above its net asset value of around 240p.

He hinted that the board was prepared to recommend an offer in cash or shares from a large property group such as British Land, Land Securities or Hammerson. The comments pushed Greycoat's share price up 31.5p to 200p. Delancey closed down 2.5p to 97.5p.

Mr Thornton revealed that he had planned to put the company up for sale after its final results in May in an attempt to end years of underperformance. However, he said the Delancey offer "significantly undervalues the company's assets and prospects".

The chief executive's view were backed by one of Greycoat's investors, who said that the Delancey proposition was "not compelling at all".

James Rithlat, the managing director of Delancey, pointed out that the offer was at a 50 per cent premium to Greycoat's price before his company bought its stake.



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1499	151	CLB	1258.0	14.0	4.8	14.0	109.0	1061	32	Stack	1582.5	17.0	6.5	17.7814
1500	152	CLB	10.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1062	33	Stack	77.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1501	153	CLB	49.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1063	34	Stack	167.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
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1503	155	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1065	36	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1504	156	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1066	37	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1505	157	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1067	38	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
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1544	196	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1106	77	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1545	197	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1107	78	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1546	198	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1108	79	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1547	199	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1109	80	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1548	200	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1110	81	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1549	201	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1111	82	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1550	202	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1112	83	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1551	203	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1113	84	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1552	204	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1114	85	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1553	205	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1115	86	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1554	206	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1116	87	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1555	207	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1117	88	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1556	208	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1118	89	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1557	209	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1119	90	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1558	210	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1120	91	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1559	211	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1121	92	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1560	212	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1122	93	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1561	213	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1123	94	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1562	214	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1124	95	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1563	215	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1125	96	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1564	216	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1126	97	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1565	217	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1127	98	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1566	218	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1128	99	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1567	219	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1129	100	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1568	220	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1130	101	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1569	221	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1131	102	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1570	222	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1132	103	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1571	223	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1133	104	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1572	224	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1134	105	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1573	225	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1135	106	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1574	226	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1136	107	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1575	227	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1137	108	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1576	228	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1138	109	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1577	229	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1139	110	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1578	230	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1140	111	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1579	231	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1141	112	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1580	232	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1142	113	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1581	233	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1143	114	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1582	234	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1144	115	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1583	235	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1145	116	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1584	236	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1146	117	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1585	237	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1147	118	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1586	238	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1148	119	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1587	239	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1149	120	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1588	240	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1150	121	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1589	241	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1151	122	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1590	242	CLB	59.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1152	123	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1591	243	CLB	197.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	1153	124	Stack	179.0	4.0	3.2	17.3014
1592	244	CLB	59.0											

UNICOMS 0.2749

[illegible]

330.0	10.0	10	189	1984
330.0	+12.0	32	181	1996
657.5	0.5	2.8	24.7	7329
100.0	+10.0	1.0	0.5	8200

[illegible]

8153	718.5	4.9	18.6	7642
4275	0.0	7.1	11.3	1373
1894.8	851.0	2.8	32.2	4871
510.0	56		22.2	3771

DETAILERS, GENERAL										
0-3431										
428	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
429	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
430	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
431	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
432	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
433	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
434	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
435	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
436	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
437	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
438	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
439	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
440	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
441	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
442	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
443	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
444	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
445	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
446	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
447	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
448	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
449	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
450	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
451	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
452	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
453	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
454	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
455	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
456	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
457	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
458	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
459	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
460	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
461	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
462	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
463	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
464	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
465	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
466	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
467	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
468	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
469	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
470	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
471	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
472	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
473	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
474	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
475	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
476	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
477	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
478	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
479	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
480	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
481	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
482	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
483	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
484	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
485	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
486	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
487	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
488	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
489	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
490	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
491	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
492	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
493	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
494	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
495	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
496	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
497	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
498	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
499	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411
500	106	Alfano	1985-5-20	83	2592	280	0.0	0.0	21	1411

75.0 ± 0.0	44	2960	
780.9 ± 10.8	6.3	185.4	4016
442.5 ± 0.0	40	129	5729

[illegible]

age	81.5	0.0		82.7	5617
	21.0	x-1.3	0.5	43.8	4835
age	96.0	0.0	2.3		2433

[illegible]

Age 1425	1.0	1.5	19.0	2837
Age 181.0	0.0	3.7	14.0	4619
Age 138.0	0.0	5.4	6.6	1666

227	14 Alpha	2175	60	22	225	137	141	Helix	1600	13	37	62	1964
228	174 AT Group	2493	61	02	226	142	143	Highland	1600	13	19	123	1938
229	31 Alpha-Aurora	2718	61	02	227	143	204	Independent Energy	1225	5	50		1964
230	39 Arctic	443	62	02	228	144	33	Independent Mt Ridge	855	0	0		1953
231	155 Atlanta NW	4613	10	23	237	105	3	Int'l Energy	1600	13	19	123	1938
232	200 B	2713	63			145	3	Int'l Energy	750	2	10		1953
233	74 B&B Res	1183	10	81	226	146	218	Int'l Energy	1535	30			1954
234	518 BRP	3225	63	10	237	147	200	Int'l Energy	1600	13	19	123	1938
235	280 BTR	4263	64	04	4267	148	200	IOC Investment	1600	13	19	123	1938
236	175 B&B Res	4775	64	04	185	200	19	IS Solutions	267.0	0	10	343	2025
237	411 Canyon Gap	8850	65	10	53	116	223	Jennings Brothers	1600	13	43	100	1940
238	88 Cedar Grove	1280.5	65	10	54	116	223	Jennings Brothers	1600	13	43	100	1940
239	280 CHS	1280.5	65	10	54	116	223	Jennings Brothers	1600	13	43	100	1940
240	355 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
241	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
242	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
243	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
244	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
245	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
246	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
247	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
248	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
249	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
250	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
251	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
252	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
253	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
254	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
255	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
256	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
257	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
258	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
259	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
260	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
261	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
262	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
263	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
264	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
265	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
266	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
267	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
268	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
269	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
270	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
271	330 Cuyahoga	4880	65	11	17	219	137	Laramie Lumber	3575	0	21	145	2030
272	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
273	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
274	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
275	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
276	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
277	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
278	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
279	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
280	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
281	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
282	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
283	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
284	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
285	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
286	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
287	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
288	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
289	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
290	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
291	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
292	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
293	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
294	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
295	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
296	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
297	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
298	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
299	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931
300	2000 Dupont Holdings	580.0	10	40	19	57	117	Metrom Group	172.0	0	11	21	1931

915	2.0	-	-	2033
257.5	0.0	2.8	29.7	4424
0.8	0.0	-	-	1526
710	2.5	-	-	2040

[illegible]

142.0	5.0	0.3		3745
582.5	15.0	1.8	20.4	4506
65	0.0			1391

177	880 Wings	650.0 x 3.5	0.5	43.0	247	104	40 Wheatland Holdings	60.0 x 1.0	0.5	118	5697
177	881 MITE Grp	171.0 x 0.0	1.0	33.2	235	118	410 Newbury Group	17.5	0.0	97	4842
						205	35 World Travel	60.0	0.0	80	2007
	882 Wings Hgts				479	488	191 Zango	825.0 x 0.0	0.0	48	4824
55	22 Gode	33.5 x 1.2	0.4	13.0	123						
601	391 Pano	746.5 x 12.0	1.1	27.2	288						
601	392 Pano-Air	890.0 x 2.5	1.7	59.0	313						
155	51 FluorTech	24.0 x 0.0	4.0	57	1656						
798	720 PSC	408.5 x 0.0	3.2	11.2	194						
800	800 Buell's Stores	635.0 x 0.0	0.0	26.5	799						
159	148 Garamba	30.0 x 0.0	0.0	7.4							
159	171 Road Express	116.5 x 7.0	3.5	62	9478						
159	230 Software Sci	369.5 x 1.0	1.7	10.5	1383						
488	270 Redfield Int	305.5 x 10.0	1.1	24.8	773						
598	183 Redway Grp	383.0 x 0.0	1.0	23.4	2542						
598	185 Red	509.0 x 0.0	0.0	74.9	2802						
598	198 Rite & Co	190.0 x 0.0	0.0	74.9	2802						
545	156 RiteWay Grp	512.0 x 0.0	0.7	48.6							
545	159 Rite & Co	472.5 x 0.5	1.4	37.0	6971						
223	590 Sps	225.0 x 0.0	0.2	77.8	6961						
181	96 Seaboard B	195.0 x 0.0	2.0	13.0	700						

RECENT ISSUES

Watch	Price	Change	Cents
Arctic Slope	59.5	0.0	3933
Cash-Coin Savings	52.0	1.0	7994
Geo-Gen	210.0	0.0	7994
J&H Computers	267.5	0.0	7912
JEK Industries	148.0	0.0	2120
JEK	59.0	0.0	3568
Solutions	45.0	-1.0	2548

source: Bloomberg
www.bloombergs.com/uk

A

Prices are in sterling except where stated. Price reflects the official closing mid price. Sector movements are based on the FTSE-100. The yield is the latest 12 months' declared gross dividend as a percentage of the share price. The price/earnings (P/E) ratio is the share price divided by last year's earnings per share, including extraordinary items but excluding exceptional, one-off results & rights issues. **Exchange:** Source: Bloomberg. **Listing:** in Partly Paid, in Nil Paid. **Off Price:** are Bloomberg Generics.

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For help with the service, including the Portfolio facility, call the Help Desk on 0870-000-4300 (TIS plc, London EC2A 4PL). 09001 calls cost 50p per minute




470		2000 Steel	421.8	2.3	34	84.6	2.0
		Oil Exp & Prod.	-0.29				
222	122	Alchem Energy	146.0	3.5	24	17.4	4.0
64	13	Alconex	51.0	0.0	14	1.0	0.0
159	68	Anglo Siberian	88.4	1.5	1011	7.2	0.0
460	84	Arb Monor	141.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
1	1	Balta Ref	1.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
457	61	Clare Energy	114.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
27	5	Danco Pet	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
456	16	Danco Petroleum	19.5	0.5	1.0	0.0	0.0
15	15	Dogcon Oil	17.4	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
3	3	Enervac Energy	3.0	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
275	275	Enervac Energy	246.3	3.5	154	11.0	0.0
491	80	Euron	262.4	0.0	45	12.0	0.0
13	2	Exxon Oil	2.3	0.0	7.3	3.3	0.0
41	5	FXC Oil	6.5	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
76	76	LASMO	264.3	0.5	1.7	0.0	0.0
78	23	Marathon	43.5	0.5	47.8	2.0	0.0
51	1	Premier Oil	15.9	1.5	3.2	1.2	0.0
440	180	Raffiner	222.5	372.8	0.0	0.0	0.0
231	27	Soco Int	24.1	0.0	5.0	0.0	0.0
156	41	Yellow Oil	48.5	0.2	0.0	0.0	0.0
		OTHER FINANCIAL	-0.620				
129	94	Abnenset Int	131.0	-4.5	43	31.9	2.0
778	257	ARMCO	182.8	18.8	1.4	38.6	11.0
545	745	Bovine Distrib	54.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
391	181	Burnco Subent	21.1	-1.5	3.8	0.0	0.0
975	680	Chemical	70.7	0.9	3.4	0.0	0.0
829	975	Cotton	82.9	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
500	629	Danisco Sugar	50.0	-0.9	1.9	1.6	0.0
913	491	Deere Bros	77.2	4.0	2.3	28.2	0.0
936	94	Edco Mills	14.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
812	126	Edco Paper	8.1	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
380	555	Edco Highgate	66.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
585	225	Emphatic Cos	27.2	7.5	3.3	28.5	4.0
23	198	Futura Investments	2.5	0.5	1.5	0.0	0.0
256	198	Future	256.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
467	243	General Oil	42.7	0.5	0.0	1.0	3.0
56	56	Guinness P	57.0	0.2	1.5	1.2	0.0
791	235	Hagerty Oil	75.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0
362	183	Harbinger Corp	361.5	19.0	2.0	2.0	0.0

[illegible]

755	0.0	74	79	2082	
444	0.0	08	34	1075	
445	93			2082	
4435	0		554	1370	
48	-483	00	39	72	1130
48	0	0	0	0	0
840	220	73	-47	6467	
Gr 17.0	0	48	51	4476	
Gr 18.0	80	45		728	
Sat 2.3	0.3			2945	
grs	225	0		32	4984
grs 1425	10	15	110	207	
grs 1510	0	37	140	4519	
grs 1810	00	54	6	1656	
grs 1810	13	63	60	1694	
Gr 1810	95	19	123	5825	
Gr 1815	0.0			5085	
Hgrs	855	0		-1813	
Gr 17.5	0			-403	
Gr 17.5	0			-253	
Gr 72.0	0			5904	
Gr 1535	20			5904	
Gr 1620	0	19	173	470	
Gr 1620	0			5200	
267.5	0	10	346	2093	
Hgrs 24.0	0	43	100	4440	
2945	1			2945	
Nov 1375	0	21	145	2430	
3680	0	31	123	4579	
3990	0	18	57	4543	
410	0	117	0	211	2913
450	0	0		450	
Gr 3620	0	18	213	147	
112.0	0			2467	
192.0	0			4081	
grs 1915	2.0			-2630	
Hgr 257.0	0	58	297	4424	
Gr 0	0			1506	
LI 715	25			2946	
Nov 235	0			2048	
Gr 3631	0.5	05	478	2913	
Gr 361	20	-2.6		-1976	
Gr 365	0			-215	
Gr 365	0			-1976	

150.0	0.0	1257
me 44.5	0.0	468
me 3.8	0.5	46.9
423.5	0.0	41
me 1.6	0.0	4974
me 1.0	0.0	74
me 27.0	4.0	2320
me 3.5	0.0	359
me 97.2	0.0	365
me 21.0	0.0	22
me 21.0	0.0	37
me 7.0	0.0	3251
me 8.5	0.0	379
me 23.0	4.25	1917
me 2.5	-3.0	587
me 12.0	0.0	16
me 142.0	5.0	43
me 362.5	15.0	18
me 6.5	0.0	6.5
me 60.5	+1.0	65
me 17.5	0.0	57
me 6.0	0.0	482
me 2.5	-5.0	482

Price	Change	Code
59.5	0.0	2063
92.0	1.0	3794
210.0	0.0	3064
257.5	0.0	3133
146.0	0.0	2010
59.0	0.0	3366
45.0	-1.0	2948



berg.com/uk

and price. Sector movements
are divided as a percentage
by last year's earnings per
share. For rights: $\frac{1}{2}$ Ex-Dividend;
1/3 Gain.

11 - 201 200

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OTHER NOT NAME

Internet craze pushes Dixons to new high

DIXONS, the electrical retailer for long in the stock market doghouse, charged to yet another new high. The shares were at one time up 106p; they closed with a 71p gain to 1,414p. In July they touched 477p.

The stock market Internet craze has been a major influence in the group's performance. On Friday Schroders, the investment house, published calculations which indicated Dixons shares were worth 2,000p.

It said the chain's fledgling Freeserve Internet access service could be worth 1,000p a share with the core retailing business in 97p.

The shares got the Internet bug when the success of the Freeserve link became apparent just at the time the market was beginning to wobble to surf the World Wide Web.

Ahead of the Freeserve arrival, Dixons had recovered its cherished Footsie place and has since consolidated its position. Profits last year emerged at £218.7m. At the interim stage they were lower and progress throughout the



DEREK PAIN

31p to 548.5p after Warburg Dillon Read and Merrill Lynch took a shine to the group.

Bass, the brewing and hotel group, failed to respond to Morgan Stanley enthusiasm. The shares fell 9p to 910.5p although the investment house raised its target price to 995p from 900p.

Rentokil Initial hardened 10p to 385.5p on BT Alex Brown support, and EMI fell 9p to 427.5p following meetings with analysts. Goldman Sachs told its clients that profits of the showbiz group could emerge at the lower end of market estimates. The securities house was said to be reviewing its own two-year estimates of £206m and £216m.

Takeover action on the market undercard underlined the belief that corporate activity remains strong. Much of the latest action occurred in two bombed out sectors - health care and property. Westminster Healthcare jumped 115p

Regent Inns is likely to be under the weather today. After the market closed the pub chain said its merger talks with SFL, which last week appeared to be going well, had been called off. The shares were little changed at 172.5p.

South Country Homes was suspended at 44.5p. It is buying a leisure company for £2.35m.

Eurocopy, the office equipment group, climbed 5.25p to 25.25p on reports of a venture capitalist bid from Italy.

Premier Oil firmed 1.5p to 15.25p on takeover speculation. Tim Eggar, the former Tory minister who heads Monument Oil & Gas, believes industry restructuring is "inevitable and desirable".

Monument shares shaded to 43.5p. The rest of the oil sector was little changed ahead of today's Opec meeting, which is not expected to have much impact on the market.

Iceland, the frozen food retailer, was in fine form, gaining 25p to 275p. Figures are due today. About £55m is expected against £43.5m. SG Securities rates the shares a buy.

Newsquest links with rivals to give local news on the Net

NEWSQUEST, the regional newspaper publisher, is poised to join forces with two of its largest rivals to launch an Internet site that brings together regional news and information from all over the country.

The site, to be called This is... is designed to become a so-called "portal", offering access to regional news drawn from the papers published by Newsquest, Trinity and Associated Newspapers.

Paul Davidson, Newsquest's managing director, said the site would bring together a large audience of Web surfers interested in local news, allowing it to sell advertising and sign supply deals with other popular suppliers such as Yahoo! and Microsoft's MSN.

"The joint venture can offer almost national coverage of local news," he said.

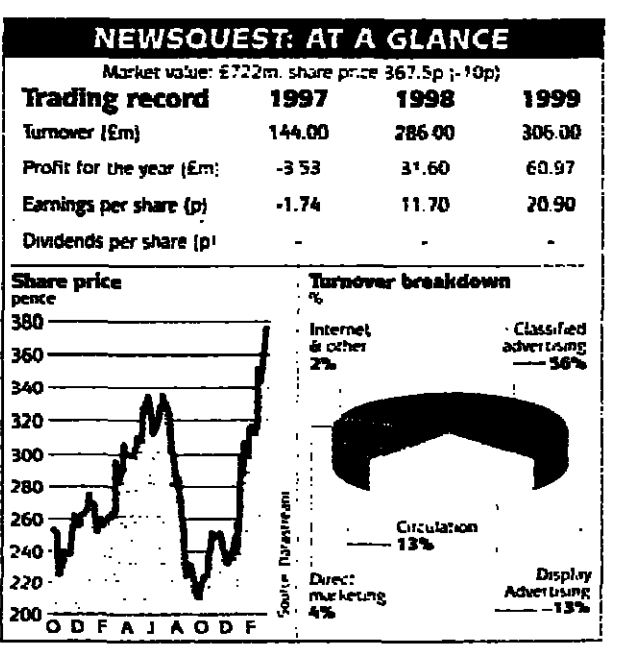
The site will allow Newsquest to boost its Internet revenues further. The group, formed three years ago when it bought Reed Elsevier's regional newspaper operations, has already put many of its pa-

pers online under the "This is..." banner. It has also launched an auction site and sites listing property and second-hand cars.

Sales are still small, with Newsquest making revenues of £0.5m in the year to last December. However, these are expected to grow exponentially this year, rising to between £2m and £3m. Given the multiples being attached to Internet companies, Newsquest's business would be worth a substantial amount if it was valued on a stand-alone basis.

"The Internet demonstrates you must have partners," said Jim Brown, Newsquest's chairman. "It's running at such a speed that if you're not right up there at the front you're not going to get in."

He was speaking as Newsquest shrugged off fears of a slowdown in regional advertising revenues to post profits of £21.4m, up 13 per cent on an underlying basis on the previous year. Underlying sales were up 5.6 per cent.



shares have had a strong run, rising more than 60 per cent in the past six months.

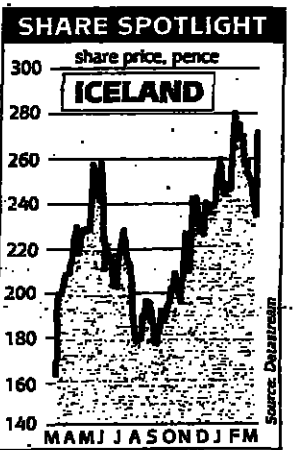
"It's a pretty bullish statement, which perhaps signals a return to health for the industry, which has been in terminal circulation decline for years," said Sutherland's analyst Angela Maxwell.

Profit growth in 1998 was boosted by a 60 per cent drop in interest payments to £20.4m as Newsquest continued to pay down its debt load. The company plans to carry on reducing its debt, although borrowings may rise if it makes a successful bid for Portsmouth & Sunderland, the rival publisher. Three bidders have asked the Monopolies and Mergers Commission to consider their interest in P&S, and a ruling is expected in May.

The improved outlook for regional advertising yesterday prompted analysts to upgrade their profit forecasts to about £75m for the current year. With the shares now trading on a forward earnings multiple of just 14, they are now rated as a long-term buy.

VFC, which hires production equipment to the television industry, is nearly doubling its size through a share issue. It plans to raise £10m by selling shares at around the current price, 52p up 4p.

More details, together with figures, are due on Monday. The group has made steady progress; profits last year were £900,000. Since arriving on the market two years ago the shares have been as high as 64p.



COX INSURANCE enjoyed a late flurry, but it was not strong enough to prevent the shares falling 2.5p to 146p.

Towards the close a number of deals went through at 150p, with one trade booked at 152p.

Cox has had a dismal time, with the shares tumbling from 520p. They have been down to 132p.

The day's volume, with turnover put at 172,000 shares, was more than the group usually attracts.

New vaccine boosts Peptide profit hopes

PEPTIDE THERAPEUTICS, the drug development company, yesterday said it could post its first profits within three years, thanks to a vaccine against yellow fever, writes Francesco Guerrera. The Cambridge company plans to submit the product to US regulators next year, with approval in 2001.

John Brown, chief executive, said the vaccine, developed with Medeva, could generate high sales. The US market for yellow fever vaccines is estimated at \$35m (£21.5m) a year.

Peptide reported a 17 per cent rise in 1998 pre-tax losses to £7.5m, partly due to the \$20m acquisition of Oravax, a US vaccine company. Dr Brown said the purchase, to be completed next month, added several vaccines to the pipeline, including the yellow fever compound. The development of Oravax's vaccines could result in up to \$60m in royalties in the next few years.

Monument looks to spend £250m on oil acquisition

MONUMENT OIL & GAS, the exploration company, is looking to spend its £250m war chest on acquisitions in an effort to boost its critical mass and revive its flagging share price.

The chairman, Tony Craven West, said the recent slump in the oil price would provide Monument with plenty of opportunities for corporate action. The company could take over one of its smaller rivals, which were hit hard last year when Brent prices collapsed to a 13-year low.

The chairman said that any target was likely to be outside the UK, probably in the US, with assets in fast-growing oil-producing areas such as Pakistan. If a deal did not materialise, Monument could forge joint ventures.

The chief executive, Tim Eggar, a former energy minister in the last Conservative



Tony Craven West: Plenty of opportunities

company reported a 60 per cent fall in pre-tax profits to £7.5m on turnover down 8.7 per cent to £81.3m. The sharp fall forced the company to scrap its dividend.

City analysts said that Monument's saving grace was its Liverpool Bay gas field. The operations offer Monument a constant stream of earnings, as gas prices are much more stable than oil prices because they are linked to long-term contracts.

One analyst said that Liverpool Bay, acted as a "hedge against the oil price downside". He added that Monument was well placed to take advantage of the current oil price rebound thanks to its large exposure to the lucrative Caspian region.

He advised buying the shares, down 0.5p to 43.5p yesterday, as they are trading at a 20 per cent discount to Monument's net asset value of 55p.

rest of the year is not expected to have been particularly encouraging, with the market consensus around £23m.

Footsie ended a featureless session off 10.4 points at 6,152.8. At one time it was up 36.3. Around half the fall could be explained by shares going ex-dividend. Woolwich, Allied Domecq and Pearson were among those lowered to account for dividend payments.

The mid cap index was also off form but the small cap, helped by takeover bids and the growing realisation of the value lurking on the undercard, was firm, gaining 12.4 to 2,399.1.

to 300p as Canterbury Healthcare produced a 31p a share offer. Canterbury is the creation of Dr Chai Patel, the founder of the Court Cavendish healthcare group.

On the property pitch it was Greycoat at the centre of the action. The shares rose 31.5p to 200p as Delancey Estates, related to George Soros, mounted a hostile share change strike. It was quickly rejected. Delancey has 11 per cent of Greycoat, which has in the past attracted the attention, but so far no suggestion of corporate action, of Wates City of London Properties.

Chesterfield Properties, which has caught the predatory interest of Quintain Estates & Development, rose 31.5p to 421.6p. At one time the shares were up 60p.

Hall Engineering held at 140p, although there were signs that TT, the conglomerate, may increase its 97p a share hostile offer. A rival bid is expected from Hall's management, led by chief executive John Swind.

A mutual withdrawal

THE PRESSURE group Save Our Building Societies (SOBS) has withdrawn its High Court action against its Birmingham Midlands Building Society, thereby removing the last obstacle to the takeover of the mutual by the very much demutualised Halifax plc.

Bob Goodall, co-ordinator of the pro-mutual SOBS, said: "I recognise I have a personal difficulty in giving up. However, hard as it is, I have to let Midlands go."

Mr Goodall faced personal bankruptcy because of legal fees if he lost the case. "It was too much of a risk to save one building society when there are 69 others which may need to be campaigned for at some time in the future," he said, bravely.

PEOPLE AND BUSINESS BY JOHN WILLCOCK



Roll of thunder

DAVID KOMANSKY, chief executive officer at Merrill Lynch, has circulated a memo to all employees of the "Thundering

Herd" investment bank, warning them about an upcoming article in Forbes magazine.

Mr Komansky says he and other top brass at Merrill gave interviews for the article on the investment banking sector, but the article discloses himself from the conclusions of the piece.

All very confusing. Apparently Merrill is sensitive to the suggestion that it might be contemplating a link-up with another of the American "bulge bracket" investment banks, such as JP Morgan or a post-floated Goldman Sachs.

Voluntary Service (WRVS). You may only have a hazy idea of what the WRVS does, but its new chairman, Tina Tietjen, aims to change all that.

"Our grant from the Government (currently £5m) is being reduced, so we need to be self-sustaining," says Ms Tietjen.

The WRVS's 120,000 members do everything from delivering meals on wheels to the elderly to providing disaster relief (they helped with over 130 disasters last year alone). The WRVS also organised the removal of the lorryloads of flowers left over in Kensington Gardens following the death of Diana, Princess of Wales.

New meaning

YOU MAY have assumed IKEA was a Scandinavian furniture chain with a huge shop just off the North Circular in London. In fact, according to the Industrial Society, IKEA stands for a vital technique that helps managers to avoid drowning in data.

Andrew Forrest has written a book, *Fifty ways towards a learning organisation*, for the society, which is published today. He writes about the information age, and how vital it is to break down the use of data into stages, using IKEA's "In-

BAA move

DUTY-FREE is on the way out on 1 July, courtesy of the EU, but that doesn't worry Ronnie Waddell, head of BAA's £400m European duty-free operations.

Mr Waddell has just been appointed managing director of retail at BAA McArthurGlen (BMG), a joint venture between the airports operator and a group of investors, which develops giant designer shopping centres.

The company builds large retail outlets and has seven so far, including Cheshire Oaks at Chester and Great Western in Swindon.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE RATES				
Country	Sterling	Spot	1 month	3 months
UK	1.0000			
Australia	2.5666	2.5662		
Canada	2.0134	2.0122		
France	6.5595	6.5583		
Germany	1.9364	1.9352		
Italy	1.9364	1.9352		
Japan	163.26	163.14		
Netherlands	2.2037	2.2025		
New Zealand	3.0468	3.0456		
Portugal	204.48	204.36		
Spain	166.38	166.26		
Sweden	8.4664	8.4652		
Switzerland	1.4756	1.4744		
US	1.6277	1.6265		

INTEREST RATES				
Country	3 month	6 month	1 year	2 year
UK	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
France	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Germany	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Italy	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Japan	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Netherlands	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
New Zealand	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Portugal	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Spain	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Sweden	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
Switzerland	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%
US	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%	5.50%

LIFE FINANCIAL FUTURES				
Contract	Settlement	High	Low	Open
Long Gilt	Mar-99	116.80	116.80	116.80
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.03	97.03	97.03
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.03	97.03	97.03
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.03	97.03	97.03
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.03	97.03	97.03
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.03	97.03	97.03
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.03	97.03	97.03
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.03	97.03	97.03
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.03	97.03	97.03
3 Mth Euro	Mar-99	97.03	97.03	97.03

INDUSTRIAL METALS				
Commodity	Unit	Price	Change	High
Aluminum	1251.5	1252.5	23.50	1272
Copper	1100	1105	7.00	1121
Gold	380	382	2.00	384
Nickel	5155	5160	25.00	5225
Platinum	5370	5380	20.00	5400
Silver	1020	1025	10.00	1035

OTHER SPOT RATES				
Country	Sterling	Dollar	Country	Sterling
Argentina	1.6196	0.9950	Oman	0.1855
Brazil	3.0317	1.8625	Pakistan	82.038
China	13.476	8.772	Philippines	63.075
Czech Rep	25.709	35.054	Poland	6.4052
Egypt	5.5555	3.4130	Russia	3.5242
France	6.5595	2.2037	S. Korea	188.9
Germany	1.9364	2.2037	Taiwan	35.868
Greece	337.8	232.70	Thailand	60.259
India	66.000	42.390	Turkey	596277
Indonesia	13673.1	8400.0	UAE	5.6779
Italy	1.9364	2.2037		

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SPORT

Ryder Cup: Two of the greatest names in European golf - Faldo and Ballesteros - could miss out at Brookline

James ready to put accent on youth

BY ANDY FARRELL
In Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida

THE VIEW from the inductee's chamber, an eerie high in the tower at the World Golf Hall of Fame here, stretches as far as the nearby town of St Augustine, reputed to be the oldest settlement in America. It takes in a golf course named the Squire and the Slammer, which was designed with help from two of the game's great names, Gene Sarazen and Sam Snead, and includes the plush offices of the PGA Tour's television production company. The huge income provided by the Tour is what allows the past to be honoured.

Until the weekend, 72 crystal cones hung from the ceiling of the inner sanctum of the Hall of Fame. After yesterday's induction ceremony, three more have been added with the images and signatures of the late Lloyd Mangrum, the 1946 US Open champion, Amy Alcott, winner of a US Women's Open and three Dinah Shore tournaments, and Seve Ballesteros.

This was not an occasion to dwell on the current performances of the Spaniard but to revel in his past glories. Three victories in the Open Championship and two at the US Masters arrived in outrageous style and accompanied with rare charisma. Ballesteros, 42 next month, was the European version of Arnold Palmer. "If people compare me to him, that's a great honour," said Seve. "Arnold Palmer did a lot for the game of golf, not only in America but all over the world."

Where Ballesteros led, four others - all, remarkably, born within a year of each other - followed. Seve was the first since Tony Jacklin to believe he could beat the Americans on American soil and once he did, Nick Faldo, Sandy Lyle, Bernhard Langer and Ian Woosnam knew they could, too. Individual success was matched by victories in the Ryder Cup, which from the mid-1980s has been propelled into an occasion of wider significance than mere golf.

Ballesteros played on eight teams once the Continental Europeans were brought in to bolster the efforts of those from Great Britain and Ireland who had previously gone through the biennial charade that the match was a competitive contest. Seve's on-course zeal was kindled by Jacklin in his years as captain and continued to burn, almost out of control, when the Spaniard took over the non-playing captain's role at Valderrama 18 months ago.

Despite the emergence, over the last decade or so, of many high class players, such as Jose Olazabal, Colin Montgomerie, Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke - although only Olazabal has claimed a major championship - Europe's victories at Oak Hill in 1995 and two years later in Spain still featured the old guard prominently. Faldo, crucially, won the last three holes against Curtis Strange to win a point four years ago, and then guided the rookie Westwood to good effect at Valderrama.

This September at the Country Club of Brookline it will be different. Ballesteros, his body ravaged by injuries, showed at Oak Hill that his magical short game was no longer enough to bail him out of trouble. He has not made a cut this year, while Faldo has made just one.

For the Englishman, it is his putting that has gone, followed by a deterioration in the rest of his game. He still desperately wants to extend his Ryder Cup record of 11 appearances, but you would not put the mortgage on it. But neither would you put the mortgage on him not winning a seventh major.

Woosnam's back, suffering not only from years of golf but the baling of hay as a youngster, means he cannot physically put in the hours of



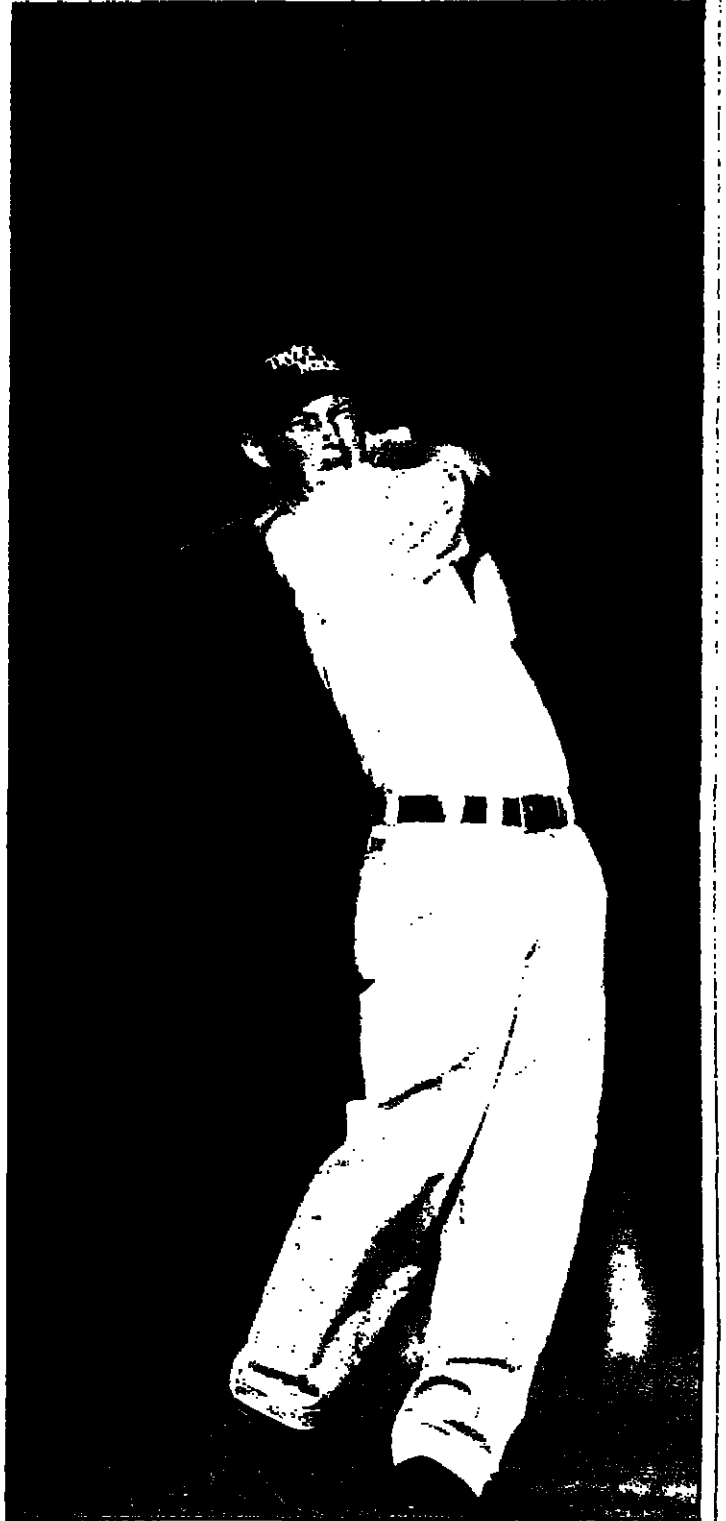
JOHN BICKERTON

Age 29, Midlander who has started his third year on the European tour in fine style, already securing his card for next year and losing a play-off for the Portuguese Open to Van Phillips. Given a book by his wife in the winter called "Face the fear - and do it anyway" which has changed his mental approach. Won five mini-tour events out of 10 in seven weeks in Florida during the winter. Ryder Cup maybe a goal too high but currently 13th on the qualifying table.



MIGUEL ANGEL JIMENEZ

Age 35, Spaniard who was Seve Ballesteros's vice-captain at Valderrama, now catching the eye with his performances on the course. Unorthodox swing but one that produces rocket-straight drives and long iron shots. Victory in home town of Malaga two weeks ago was his fifth on tour, including his chip-in win at the Lancôme Trophy, where the leaderboard also included the names of Mark O'Meara, David Duval, Nick Faldo, Fred Couples and Colin Montgomerie.



PATRIK SJOLANDER

Age 27, Winner of just one European tour title, the Italian Open last year, but has shown himself to be a gritty opponent in the head-to-head version of the game in the World Matchplay events at Wentworth last October and in San Diego last month, when he reached the third round. Deadly with wedge shots from 100 yards, and on and around the greens. Golf career put on hold in 1992 when involved in a car crash on icy roads in Sweden. He edited, at speed, via the sun-roof, which was closed at the time.

practice that Faldo does. But when the muse is with him, the Welshman can still produce, as with his 28 for nine holes at the Forest of Arden last year and in winning the 1997 Volvo PGA Championship. Perhaps the safest bet is Langer, who seems to be fit again and has started the year well. Hit by injury in '96 and '98, he showed he is still a winner in 1997 by claiming four victories.

But, suddenly, among those expected to make Mark James's European team in September will be Westwood, Clarke and Thomas Bjorn, all of whom only played at Valderrama. The experience will come from Olazabal, Montgomerie and, possibly, Per-Ulrik Johansson, who has two appearances behind him.

James, who played seven Ryder Cups, is ready for the transition. "A number of our top players have turned 40 and it may well be time for some of them to miss a Ryder Cup," he said. "You can never tell because the people we are thinking about are incredibly talented and have been at the top for a very long time and are very capable of playing good golf. The odd one of them will miss but I'm sure all of them won't."

What James will not do is give one or both of his wild-card selections to a "name" without proof that they are performing well. Indeed, his instinct will be to turn to those who finish 11th and 12th on the points table. I do not like mentioning specific names, but those (Faldo and Ballesteros) are two of the greatest names that Europe has ever seen. A team

with them playing well is obviously going to be better than a team without them.

"We have a lot of young talent coming through. If some of the older players don't make it I know we will have others who are playing well and desperate to prove themselves in the arena. I think these days the young players coming

through are very different to the young players coming through 15 years ago. They have a lot more experience and are more capable of dealing with the type of problems the Ryder Cup will pose. Within reason I wouldn't be afraid of having a number of rookies in the team. I'll be looking more at how they are playing rather than how many Ryder Cups they've played in."

It is early days on the qualifying table. There have been 15 events with 23 to come, including the big money tournaments and all four majors. Miguel Angel Jimenez, who has won twice in the last seven months, and Patrik Sjolander, who performed well at the World Matchplay in San Diego, have received late invitations to the US Masters which will boost their chances.

Sven Struver, Alex Cejka, Robert Karlsson, Andrew Coltart and David Howell, who won against a good field in Dubai last month, all have their work cut out to remain in the top 10. But all have won on tour and are capable of doing so again. They will have to. James's team may hold some new names, but they will all be winners.

RYDER CUP STANDINGS	
EUROPE (Eng unless stated)	UNITED STATES
1 Colin Montgomerie (Sco) -5,880pts	1 David Duval -967,500pts
2 Miguel Angel Jimenez (Sp) -3,787	2 Tiger Woods -861,875
3 Darren Clarke (N Ir) -3,452	3 Mark O'Meara -802,500
4 Lee Westwood -3,412	4 Davis Love III -559,500
5 Sven Struver (Ger) -2,660	5 Jim Furyk -550,500
6 Alex Cejka (Ger) -2,616	6 Payne Stewart -532,500
7 Robert Karlsson (Swe) -2,322	7 Jeff Maggert -485,000
8 David Howell -2,302	8 Justin Leonard -439,575
9 Andrew Coltart (Sco) -2,161	9 Fred Couples -426,250
10 Patrik Sjolander (Swe) -2,122	10 Steve Stricker -412,500
11 Jarmo Sandelin (Swe) -2,090	11 John Huston -399,583
12 Seve Ballesteros -1,978	12 Hal Sutton -371,250
13 John Bickerton -1,805	13 Fred Funk -370,000
14 Bernhard Langer (Ger) -1,756	14 Billy Mayfair -347,500
15 Paul McInelly (Ir) -1,715	15 Jeff Stroman -338,417
16 Pierre Faldo (Swe) -1,570	16 Phil Mickelson -335,000
17 Paul Lawrie (Sct) -1,560	17 Lee Janzen -297,500
18 Jose Maria Olazabal (Sp) -1,550	18 Steve Faltz -286,214
19 Van Phillips -1,457	19 Rob Eckos -270,000
20 Per-Ulrik Johansson (Swe) -1,313	20 Andrew Magee -264,167

Herron swoops to land Invitational

BY DOUG FERGUSON
In Orlando, Florida

FOR THREE days, all anyone wanted to know about Tim Herron was what he had for lunch and why they called him Lumpy. On Sunday, the American showed his game was worth talking about, too.

Herron won the Bay Hill Invitational with a birdie on the second play-off hole against Tom Lehman, giving the 29-year-old from Minnesota his third victory in four years on the PGA Tour.

Herron, who closed with an even-par 72 for 274, earned \$450,000 (\$269,000). After he and Lehman made pars on the first play-off hole, the 18th, Herron played the 511-yard 18th hole to perfection - a booming drive down the fairway and a bold approach over the water to about 10 feet. Lehman hit into the bunker for the second time in less than an hour. He blasted through the fairway into the rough, hit over the green and made a 15-foot par putt from the fringe even before Herron lined up

his eagle putt. "I can't hang my head. I feel like I played well," Lehman said. "It feels good to be nervous again. Last week at Honda, I finished last. This was a lot more fun."

Davis Love III can blame his putter for finishing one stroke out of the play-off on 275. One day after he made eight birdie putts, Love came up empty in his bid to win Arnold Palmer's tournament for the first time after three good chances. He missed four-foot birdie putts on three of the first four holes, missed an eight-footer at the 16th and then missed a 10-foot par putt at the 17th. Love had a 30-foot birdie on the last hole that slid by on the right.

Robert Damron, who grew up at Bay Hill, holed a 35-foot birdie putt on the last hole for a 67 that left him alone in fourth with 276.

Scores, Digest, page 25

France unable to cope with the bulldozer effect

ALL MY instincts, derived as they are from many years of largely inaccurate guesswork, told me that France would put up a tremendous performance at Twickenham. I still thought the England bulldozer would crush them in the end, and for that reason refrained from placing a bet on the outcome.

As things turned out, the bulldozer crushed them more or less from the beginning, while the French performance was at least three courses short of a four-course lunch.

Admittedly, luck did not go entirely their way. Indeed, I began by thinking that Colin Hawke, the New Zealand referee, was being over-severe with them. But, when Hawke had to go off injured at the



ALAN WATKINS

end of the first half, to be replaced by Jim Fleming of Scotland, the latter proved to be equally if not more exigent, awarding England four penalties, all kicked by Jonny Wilkinson, to Hawke's three, at

which Wilkinson had been equally successful.

The French have never been candidates for canonisation, particularly in their front five. On this occasion, however, the penalties were awarded for what I should call largely technical offences, brought about more by carelessness or foolishness than by evil intent. If a forward cannot rest a hand on the ground while trying to secure the ball without risking a penalty, the game has become absurd.

Certainly, England deserved the win. But I cannot believe that the XV who took the field initially on Saturday, even allowing for those unavailable through injury, were the best France could muster. Philippe Bernat-Salles, for instance, would

almost certainly have scored the try which Xavier Garbajosa just missed through Bernat-Salles' fractionally greater pace.

The problems of Clive Woodward, the England coach, are fewer than those of Jean-Claude Skrela and Pierre Villepreux on the French side. But they are not quite yet the problems of success. It did not require more than a degree of modest competence on the part of the English backs to increase the England score by between five and 21 points, depending on how many tries were scored and converted.

For the Welsh match, I should like to see Woodward retain the now-maligned Jeremy Guscott (still a better centre at 23 than his rivals are or were at 23), introduce another

Sale player, Barrie-Jon Mather, inside him; and at last shift Wilkinson to outside-half. My guess, however, is that he will play safe and bring in Tony Underwood alone for the injured David Rees.

Who would have thought that Scotland, 50-1 at the start of the Five Nations, would still be in with a chance of winning 12? If they beat France in Paris, while Wales beat England a day later at Wembley on 11 April, Scotland and England will each have won three matches. The outcome of the championship will depend on points difference, as it has done since 1993. England have a margin in hand of 28 points, Scotland of 27. Even if Scotland (undoubtedly the team of the season) fall to France, England will still be coming to Wem-

bley in search of the Grand Slam. Graham Henry, the Welsh coach, now has a settled side. It will be surprising if he makes any changes from those who put up 60 points against Italy.

My own instinct, I must confess, would be to bring in David Young at tight head and have John Davies among the substitutes. This would be tough on Ben Evans, I know, but against England I should go for as much experience as I could gather.

Moreover, one of the most important changes to the game, so far neither fully exploited nor adequately analysed, is the allowing of tactical substitutions. Immensely strong practitioners such as Young and Davies, who are nevertheless getting on a bit and running out of

puft, can be put on the field for 70, 80 or even 40 minutes.

By the same reasoning, I hope Henry picks an entire reserve front row, as he did against France but not against Italy, and also comes up with an adequate kicking substitute for Neil Jenkins, should that old campaigner have to go off injured.

I feel a faint sense of paternity about the present Welsh side because I urged Henry to do what he has done: acquire a decent loose-head prop, who appears in the form of Peter Rogers, and harness the size and energy of the Quinell brothers. They, together with the other five, should certainly give the England eight at Wembley a harder time than they received from the French at Twickenham.

Only the intrepid to follow Captain

IT SEEMS almost indecent, just five days after the Gold Cup, that it is already time to consider a race which will take barely two minutes to run and in which, unless something goes very badly wrong, your money will not leave the ground even once. But there it is, the Lincoln Handicap, trying as usual to grab a little attention between Cheltenham and the Grand National meeting, and no doubt luring punters in for a bet which they will spend the rest of the flat season chasing.

The Lincoln, to put it mildly, is not much of a race for favourites, which is only to be expected when many of the runners have not seen a racecourse for at least four months.

This year, though, backers who put their faith in the likely market leader will at least have one of the country's finest trainers of handicappers on their side. Jeremy Glover has won three Cambridgehips in the last 10 years, and in Captain Scott, he seems to have a Lincoln runner with everything that any punter could wish for.

There is good recent form, in the valuable Lincoln Trial Handicap at Wolverhampton 10 days ago, which Captain Scott won by two lengths. Glover's runner also prefers

BY GREG WOOD

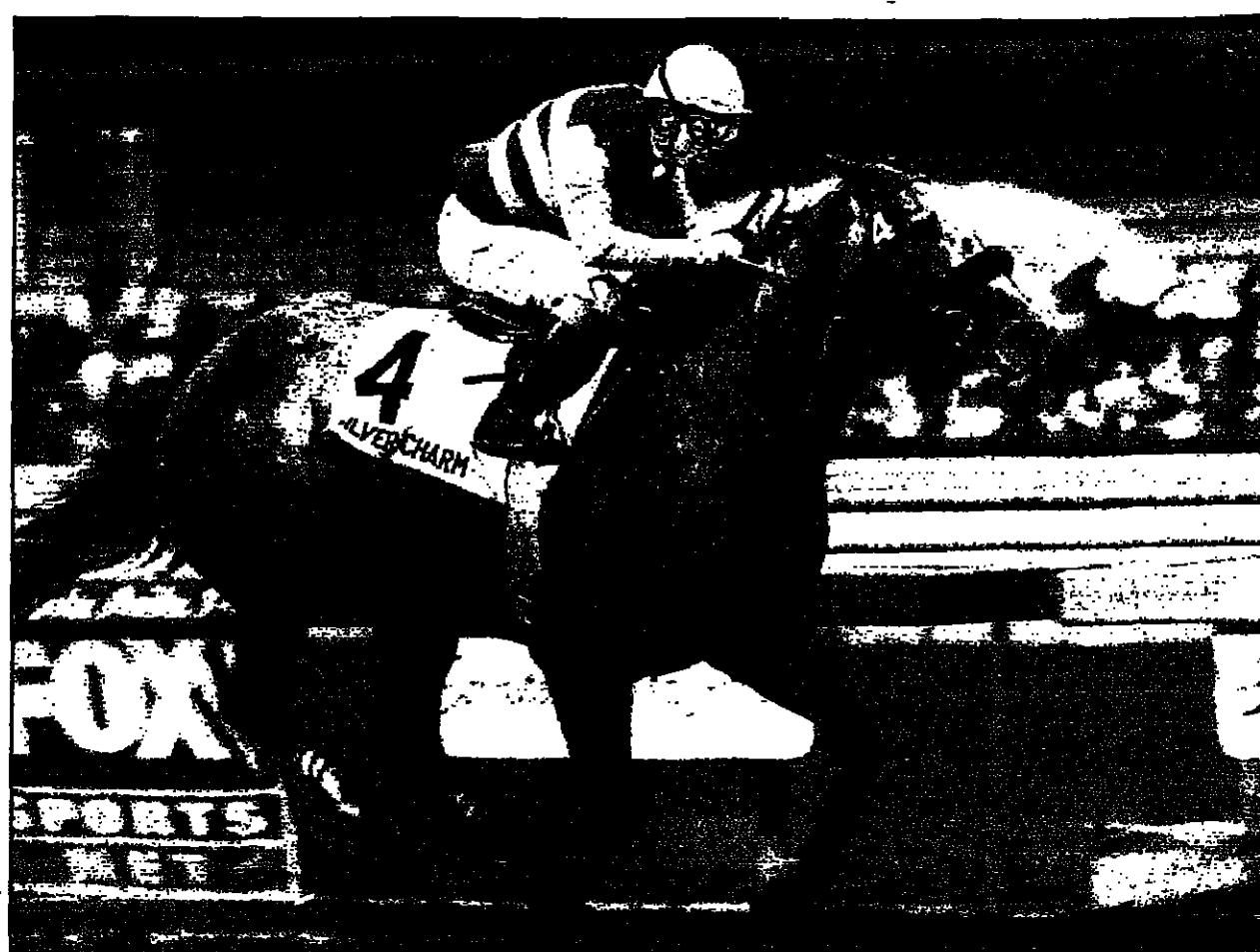
good ground, which seems likely according to the forecasters, and he is that straight-mile classic, a horse who might want 10 furlongs on a round course, but finds a demanding straight eight ideal.

"I thought that a mile at Wolverhampton might be a bit sharp for him," Glover said yesterday, "and I think he's best over a mile and a quarter. But early in the season when they're fresh, they're often a little bit sharper. When he got around the turn it took him about a furlong and a half to really stretch, but once he did, he

RICHARD EDMONDSON
Map: Master Rastus
(Uttometer 3.50)
NB: Norticard
(Exeter 3.00)

was going away. A dead straight mile will be an advantage to him, because they've got to get it well.

The run on the all-weather since July 1998, when he was sixth in the John Smith's Magnificent Cup at York. "We were looking at the Magnet Cup and then the Cambridgehire, but it didn't work out because he



Silver Charm wins at Santa Anita last month on his way to Sunday's Dubai World Cup

Saxon Reed/AP

wasn't quite right," Glover says. "But when he came back after his long break, he was so well that we could start looking for races for him. We may as well strike while the iron's hot."

One imponderable, as ever, is the possible effect of the draw. As last year, starting stalls positions will be determined by the runners' connections. When their horse's name is pulled out of the hat, they will take it in turns to choose a box.

Glover will decide where he wants to be after walking the course on Thursday morning, although if Captain Scott's name is one of the last out of the hat, there is no guarantee that he will get his wish.

It is an uncertainty which makes the 6-1 against Captain Scott easy to resist until his draw is certain, although if he is one of the first out, and seems to be with the pacey horses, he could easily start at

much shorter odds. At least he is guaranteed a race on Saturday, since he was among the top 24 in the weights when 55 horses were declared yesterday. The final declaration stage also takes place on Thursday, both to facilitate the draw, and to allow another 24 horses to contest the Spring Mile consolation race on Friday afternoon.

Right Wing, who finished third last year, is also guaranteed a place, but Further Outlook, another leading figure in the ante-post market, needs two to scratch between now and Thursday morning to get in.

David Nicholls, Further Outlook's trainer, who also hopes to saddle Royal Result, said yesterday: "Both horses are well. We've done as much as we can with them despite the wet weather which held us up a bit."

"I'd certainly prefer to see Further Outlook get into the Lincoln rather than go in the other race [the Spring Mile] with 9st 10lb."

Further Outlook got into the Lincoln rather than go in the other race [the Spring Mile] with 9st 10lb.

News yesterday on the second leg of the Spring Double, the Grand National, concerned Call It A Day, who finished second to Young Kenny in the Midlands National at Uttoxeter on Saturday. "We were very pleased with him, he ran a smashing race," David Nicholson, his trainer, said. "He's come out of the race at 1 and is on course for the National."

The participation of Rough Quest, the winner of the race three years ago, depends on his performance in the Doublemint Handicap Chase at Newbury on Saturday. "We are expecting a good run," Terry Casey, his trainer, said yesterday. "Newbury is a nice, flat track and it should tell us whether to go to Aintree."

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Charm attracts

SILVER CHARM, who beat Swain in last year's Dubai World Cup, is clear favourite with all the leading bookmakers to inflict defeat on the Derby winner, High Rise, who is now a member of the Godolphin operation, in this year's renewal on Sunday.

Odds of 2-1 are the best on offer against Bob Baffert's charge who will face four members of the Godolphin squad, including Central Park who was backed yesterday from 40-1 to 16-1 with William Hill.

Cheltenham Gold Cup Doran's Pride may run on the Flat at the Curragh this weekend as preparation for next month's Heineken Gold Cup at Punchestown.

Call It A Day is of National interest

WITH A maximum field of 24 and 55 declared yesterday and the draw an unknown element at this stage - if the ground is on the soft side low numbers should hold the edge - the Lincoln Handicap at Doncaster on Saturday looks very tricky. Further Outlook, strongly fancied but not in the top 24 in the weights, may miss the cut.

The Grand National is little clearer. The David Nicholson pair, Go Ballistic and Call It A Day have run excellent trials last week, but Go Ballistic, who had Double Thriller - set to receive just 5lb from him at Aintree - 31 lengths back in fourth when runner up to See More Business in the Gold Cup, may

ANTE-POST UPDATE

BY IAN DAVIES

miss the National for the Martell Cup. Call It A Day was runner up to Young Kenny (top in the National) in the Midlands National at Uttoxeter on Saturday and was backed from 14-1 to 10-1 yesterday for Aintree.

Betty's Boy and Island Chief, first and second in the National Hunt Handicap Chase at the Festival, did their National prospects no harm. However, they are set to be 8lb and 6lb longer for seven lengths and five lengths respectively with third-placed Nahthen Lad at Aintree.

DUBAI WORLD CUP (1m 2f)									
		G	H	L	S	T			
120-1	SILVER CHARM (US) (9st 10lb)	7-4	8-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
110-1	HIGH RISE (GB) (9st 10lb)	5-2	11-4	11-4	11-4	11-4			
100-1	VICTORY GALLOP (GB) (9st 10lb)	2-1	2-1	2-1	2-1	2-1			
90-1	DAYLARK (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
80-1	ALUMINUM (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
70-1	MALIK (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
60-1	CENTRAL PARK (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
50-1	RUNNING STAG (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			

Each-way 1/5th the odds, places 1, 2, 3 (Aintree, Sunday)

LINCOLN HANDICAP (1m)									
		G	H	L	S	T			
100-1	GO BALLISTIC (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
90-1	HORNBLEND (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
80-1	BOUNCEBACK KING (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
70-1	RIGHT WING (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
60-1	GAULIN (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
50-1	SLICK ST. JOHN (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
40-1	FREE OPTION (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
30-1	CAPTAIN SCOTT (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
20-1	RANSEN (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
10-1	CHERRY (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
5-1	CHINA RED (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
2-1	NIGHT OF GLASS (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
1-1	RUSSIAN MUSIC (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
1-1	TEMPERANCE (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
1-1	BLUESBERRY (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
1-1	DUNHAM (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
1-1	MONROE (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
1-1	TURF FLYING (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
1-1	THEME (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
1-1	TOM DOUGAL (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
1-1	ROYAL RESULT (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
1-1	SALA BLANCA (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
1-1	KILA SUNRISE (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			
1-1	TERMINAL (GB) (9st 10lb)	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1	25-1			

NB: 55 declared. Only 24 can run. Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4 (Doncaster, Saturday)

GRAND NATIONAL HANDICAP CHASE (4m 4f)									
		G	H	L	S	T			
20-1	DOUBLE THRILLER (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
15-1	GO BALLISTIC (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
10-1	ELDER (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
5-1	ADDITION BOY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
2-1	CALL IT A DAY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	GENERAL WOLFE (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	SUNNY BOY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	PROUDLY THE FACTS (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	WINTERHILL (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	BARONET (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	THE SUMMIT (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	HANNAHAM (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	BECKMONT KING (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	ELMSTON (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	COOLMILL (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	ISLAND CHIEF (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	KENDAL CAVALLER (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	BETTER BOY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	EVENS FLY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	HOLLYBARK (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			

NB: 55 declared. Only 24 can run. Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4 (Aintree, Saturday)

NEWCASTLE									
		G	H	L	S	T			
20-1	GO BALLISTIC (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
15-1	ELDER (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
10-1	ADDITION BOY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
5-1	CALL IT A DAY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
2-1	GENERAL WOLFE (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	SUNNY BOY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	PROUDLY THE FACTS (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	WINTERHILL (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	BARONET (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	THE SUMMIT (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	HANNAHAM (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	BECKMONT KING (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	ELMSTON (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	COOLMILL (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	ISLAND CHIEF (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	KENDAL CAVALLER (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	BETTER BOY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	EVENS FLY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	HOLLYBARK (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			

NB: 55 declared. Only 24 can run. Each-way a quarter the odds, places 1, 2, 3, 4 (Aintree, Saturday)

SOUTHWELL									
		G	H	L	S	T			
20-1	GO BALLISTIC (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
15-1	ELDER (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
10-1	ADDITION BOY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
5-1	CALL IT A DAY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
2-1	GENERAL WOLFE (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	SUNNY BOY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	PROUDLY THE FACTS (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	WINTERHILL (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	BARONET (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	THE SUMMIT (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	HANNAHAM (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	BECKMONT KING (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	ELMSTON (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	COOLMILL (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	ISLAND CHIEF (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	KENDAL CAVALLER (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	BETTER BOY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	EVENS FLY (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
1-1	HOLLYBARK (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			

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15-1	ELDER (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1						
10-1	GO BALLISTIC (GB) (9st 10lb)	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4	1-4			
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South Africa secure series

NEW ZEALAND regained a touch of their self-respect on the morning of the Basin Reserve. First their last three wickets added another hectic 74 and then they removed two South African batsmen when they went in to make the 16 they needed to win the match and the series with it, 1-0.

The South African opening bowlers may have been gully at the start of thinking that they had to do nothing more than go through the motions with the new ball only four overs old, however they found Dion Nash in a most determined mood. He began with a glance for four off Shaun Pollock and then drove Steve Elworthy backward of square for another. Sixteen more runs had been scored when Daniel Vettori was capped on his crease by a beauty from Pollock which missed back and bowled him.

Simon Doull, who is no great shakes with a bat in his hand, now played a most engaging little innings. He began by on-driving Paul Adams for six and then took three good fours off him in his next over which produced 14 runs.

Two more fours came in Adams' next over but after a last on-drive against Elworthy which



Yorkshire's Darren Gough displays his Cornhill England player of the year award yesterday

Deserved accolade for Gough

DARREN GOUGH yesterday received recognition for his outstanding individual performances over the last 12 months by winning the Cornhill England player of the year award.

The Yorkshire fast bowler has been given the accolade ahead of his departure for England's training camp in Lahore on Sunday with the other 14 members of the World Cup squad for the forthcoming Coca-Cola Cup in Sharjah.

Gough completed a remarkable comeback in a year which began with injury and fought off competition from Nasser Hussain, Angus Fraser, Alec Stewart and Mark Ramprakash for the award. He was presented with a £10,000 cheque and an engraved glass trophy at a lunch in London yesterday.

"He's got a big smile, big pace and he's a big lad," said David Lloyd, the England coach, who was on the panel of judges alongside the former Test players Mike Selvey, Bob Taylor and Bob Willis. "Darren Gough is a team player, a people's player and highly respected by all international opposition."

Gough took 17 wickets to help England win their first home Test series in over a decade against South Africa last year and shone as an individual during this winter's Ashes series taking 21 wickets - including a hat-trick in Sydney.

Disappointing England

IN THE Under-18 tournament at Cardiff, an England team largely consisting of players with National League experience were beaten 2-0 by Ireland to finish a disappointing third. The U18s beat the Irish 2-1, thanks to two goals from their captain, James Southgate, to finish on top.

With the exception of the Women's West Premier all the Regional League line-ups are now known and the clubs are looking forward to promotion or to the play-offs. In the West, with a game to play, Exmouth lead Colwall on goal difference.

Cambridge University's fight for National status finally ended in a 1-1 draw with Peterborough Town at the weekend. With 15

Eagles left on the ledge

AYR SCOTTISH EAGLES' chances of progressing into the second Superleague play-off semi-finals are virtually nil after their dramatic 2-2 draw with Cardiff Devils.

The play-off champions seemed set to record a much-needed win as goals from Jamie Steer and Jeff Hoad saw Jim Lynch's side lead 2-0 with just nine minutes remaining. But the Devils' defenceman Martin Lindman set up a tense finish by pulling one back before Steve Thornton broke Eagles' hearts with an equaliser just a second from the end to take the game into overtime.

Neither side could find the winner, the draw leaving Ayr

Chelsea the only value left at 8-1

CHELSEA LOOK the only scrap of value left in the Premiership betting following a weekend in which the main contenders fell. The bookmakers feel the title race between Manchester United and Arsenal, but Chelsea and Leeds are still quoted and, while it is hard to see Leeds pulling off a shock, Chelsea are overpriced at 8-1. They are seven points off the pace, but have a game in hand and could easily amass a further 21 points to end on 77, a total their rivals will struggle to match if they slip up.

Down among the dead men it is "no others" Nottingham Forest to go down, but the other two tickets to Palookaville are up for grabs and a study of the remaining fixtures suggests Coventry, Everton and Leicester could be surprise strugglers.

On the Euro front, Manchester United are favourites for the European Cup and look bound for the final after drawing Juventus, lucky to get past Olympiakos in the quarter-finals and deeply unimpressive at Roma to home on Sunday. The mystery is why the superb Dynamo Kyiv, having led to rest their off-season hoodoo by kicking out Real Madrid, the holders, in the quarter-finals, remain the outsiders of four.

Parma have shortened as favourites for the UEFA Cup after drawing the inconsistent Atletico Madrid in the semi-finals, tipped ante-post in this neck of the woods at 20-1, are a top-priced 3-1 after drawing Bologna. In the Cup

UTTOXETER

2.20 McHattie 2.50 Legend Of Love 3.20 Hydro 3.50 Master Star 4.20 High Island 4.50 Patras 5.20 Here's the Hoping

GOING: Soft (Heavy in places).
11 Left-hand course, Run-in of 170yds.
11 Course is SE of town near B207. Uttometer railway station Derby-Crewe line, opposite course. ADAMS: 11-12-13-14-15-16-17-18-19-20-21-22-23-24-25-26-27-28-29-30-31-32-33-34-35-36-37-38-39-40-41-42-43-44-45-46-47-48-49-50-51-52-53-54-55-56-57-58-59-60-61-62-63-64-65-66-67-68-69-70-71-72-73-74-75-76-77-78-79-80-81-82-83-84-85-86-87-88-89-90-91-92-93-94-95-96-97-98-99-100-101-102-103-104-105-106-107-108-109-110-111-112-113-114-115-116-117-118-119-120-121-122-123-124-125-126-127-128-129-130-131-132-133-134-135-136-137-138-139-140-141-142-143-144-145-146-147-148-149-150-151-152-153-154-155-156-157-158-159-160-161-162-163-164-165-166-167-168-169-170-171-172-173-174-175-176-177-178-179-180-181-182-183-184-185-186-187-188-189-190-191-192-193-194-195-196-197-198-199-200-201-202-203-204-205-206-207-208-209-210-211-212-213-214-215-216-217-218-219-220-221-222-223-224-225-226-227-228-229-230-231-232-233-234-235-236-237-238-239-240-241-242-243-244-245-246-247-248-249-250-251-252-253-254-255-256-257-258-259-260-261-262-263-264-265-266-267-268-269-270-271-272-273-274-275-276-277-278-279-280-281-282-283-284-285-286-287-288-289-290-291-292-293-294-295-296-297-298-299-300-301-302-303-304-305-306-307-308-309-310-311-312-313-314-315-316-317-318-319-320-321-322-323-324-325-326-327-328-329-330-331-332-333-334-335-336-337-338-339-340-341-342-343-344-345-346-347-348-349-350-351-352-353-354-355-356-357-358-359-360-361-362-363-364-365-366-367-368-369-370-371-372-373-374-375-376-377-378-379-380-381-382-383-384-385-386-387-388-389-390-391-392-393-394-395-396-397-398-399-400-401-402-403-404-405-406-407-408-409-410-411-412-413-414-415-416-417-418-419-420-421-422-423-424-425-426-427-428-429-430-431-432-433-434-435-436-437-438-439-440-441-442-443-444-445-446-447-448-449-450-451-452-453-454-455-456-457-458-459-460-461-462-463-464-465-466-467-468-469-470-471-472-473-474-475-476-477-478-479-480-481-482-483-484-485-486-487-488-489-490-491-492-493-494-495-496-497-498-499-500-501-502-503-504-505-506-507-508-509-510-511-512-513-514-515-516-517-518-519-520-521-522-523-524-525-526-527-528-529-530-531-532-533-534-535-536-537-538-539-540-541-542-543-544-545-546-547-548-549-550-551-552-553-554-555-556-557-558-559-560-561-562-563-564-565-566-567-568-569-570-571-572-573-574-575-576-577-578-579-580-581-582-583-584-585-586-587-588-589-590-591-592-593-594-595-596-597-598-599-600-601-602-603-604-605-606-607-608-609-610-611-612-613-614-615-616-617-618-619-620-621-622-623-624-625-626-627-628-629-630-631-632-633-634-635-636-637-638-639-640-641-642-643-644-645-646-647-648-649-650-651-652-653-654-655-656-657-658-659-660-661-662-663-664-665-666-667-668-669-670-671-672-673-674-675-676-677-678-679-680-681-682-683-684-685-686-687-688-689-690-691-692-693-694-695-696-697-698-699-700-701-702-703-704-705-706-707-708-709-710-711-712-713-714-715-716-717-718-719-720-721-722-723-724-725-726-727-728-729-730-731-732-733-734-735-736-737-738-739-740-741-742-743-744-745-746-747-748-749-750-751-752-753-754-755-756-757-758-759-760-761-762-763-764-765-766-767-768-769-770-771-772-773-774-775-776-777-778-779-780-781-782-783-784-785-786-787-788-789-790-791-792-793-794-795-796-797-798-799-800-801-802-803-804-805-806-807-808-809-810-811-812-813-814-815-816-817-818-819-820-821-822-823-824-825-826-827-828-829-830-831-832-833-834-835-836-837-838-839-840-841-842-843-844-845-846-847-848-849-850-851-852-853-854-855-856-857-858-859-860-861-862-863-864-865-866-867-868-869-870-871-872-873-874-875-876-877-878-879-880-881-882-883-884-885-886-887-888-889-890-891-892-893-894-895-896-897-898-899-900-901-902-903-904-905-906-907-908-909-910-911-912-913-914-915-916-917-918-919-920-921-922-923-924-925-926-927-928-929-930-931-932-933-934-935-936-937-938-939-940-941-942-943-944-945-946-947-948-949-950-951-952-953-954-955-956-957-958-959-960-961-962-963-964-965-966-967-968-969-970-971-972-973-974-975-976-977-978-979-980-981-982-983-984-985-986-987-988-989-990-991-992-993-994-995-996-997-998-999-1000-1001-1002-1003-1004-1005-1006-1007-1008-1009-1010-1011-1012-1013-1014-1015-1016-1017-1018-1019-1020-1021-1022-1023-1024-1025-1026-1027-1028-1029-1030-1031-1032-1033-1034-1035-1036-1037-1038-1039-1040-1041-1042-1043-1044-1045-1046-1047-1048-1049-1050-1051-1052-1053-1054-1055-1056-1057-1058-1059-1060-1061-1062-1063-1064-1065-1066-1067-1068-1069-1070-1071-1072-1073-1074-1075-1076-1077-1078-1079-1080-1081-1082-1083-1084-1085-1086-1087-1088-1089-1090-1091-1092-1093-1094-1095-1096-1097-1098-1099-1100-1101-1102-1103-1104-1105-1106-1107-1108-1109-1110-1111-1112-1113-1114-1115-1116-1117-1118-1119-1120-1121-1122-1123-1124-1125-1126-1127-1128-1129-1130-1131-1132-1133-1134-1135-1136-1137-1138-1139-1140-1141-1142-1143-1144-1145-1146-1147-1148-1149-1150-1151-1152-1153-1154-1155-1156-1157-1158-1159-1160-1161-1162-1163-1164-1165-1166-1167-1168-1169-1170-1171-1172-1173-1174-1175-1176-1177-1178-1179-1180-1181-1182-1183-1184-1185-1186-1187-1188-1189-1190-1191-1192-1193-1194-1195-1196-1197-1198-1199-1200-1201-1202-1203-1204-1205-1206-1207-1208-1209-1210-1211-1212-1213-1214-1215-1216-1217-1218-1219-1220-1221-1222-1223-1224-1225-122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6-2227-2228-2229-2230-2231-2232-2233-2234-2235-2236-2237-2238-2239-2240-2241-2242-2243-2244-2245-2246-2247-2248-2249-2250-2251-2252-2253-2254-2255-2256-2257-2258-2259-2260-2261-2262-2263-2264-2265-2266-2267-2268-2269-2270-2271-2272-2273-2274-2275-2276-2277-2278-2279-2280-2281-2282-2283-2284-2285-2286-2287-2288-2289-2290-2291-2292-2293-2294-2295-2296-2297-2298-2299-2300-2301-2302-2303-2304-2305-2306-2307-2308-2309-2310-2311-2312-2313-2314-2315-2316-2317-2318



SPORT

NEW FACES STAKE RYDER CLAIMS P21 • WINNING BOWL FOR GOUGH P23

Numbers problem for Keegan

KEVIN KEEGAN quickly discovered the realities of his new job yesterday, when he finally stepped on to a training ground as the England coach to find he had only eight players from an original 24-man squad to work with. The rest were either injured or resting.

This left his main work as pastoral and medical. First he soothed, for the time being at least, the festering row between Graeme Le Saux and Robbie Fowler. Then, in an ironic twist, he saw Le Saux's former *bête noir*, David Batty, and his current rival for an England place, Andy Hinchcliffe, return to Yorkshire with injury.

FOOTBALL BY GLENN MOORE

Batty's absence, caused by a virus which has set back his attempts to regain match fitness after a rib injury, is a particular blow. In the absence of the suspended Paul Ince it appeared the Leeds midfielder would have started Saturday's European Championship qualifier against Poland.

Keegan may now be forced to give Tim Sherwood a debut at Wembley in the anchor role. With 37 caps, Batty had been one of the most experienced players in the squad.

Keegan was also faced with a minor goalkeeping crisis after both David Seaman and Nigel Martyn reported with knocks following their weekend matches. Although both are expected to be fit by Saturday, Keegan did not want to risk either in training until they had recovered. Having already called up Ian Walker, the Tottenham goalkeeper, he has also promoted Paul Robinson from the Under-21s to provide further cover. There is no prospect of Robinson, Martyn's understudy at Leeds, being involved in the senior game at the weekend, however. Should the injuries to Seaman and Martyn

prove more serious than thought, a more experienced goalkeeper would be called up.

The three other injury worries, Michael Owen (hamstring), David Beckham (calf) and Chris Sutton (groin), underwent treatment yesterday while players from those clubs who played on Sunday, Tottenham, Manchester United, Chelsea and Aston Villa, were rested. Keegan will decide today if he needs further reinforcements.

The departure of Hinchcliffe, who has a back problem, increased the importance of Keegan's diplomatic overture to Le Saux and Fowler, who fell out

at Stamford Bridge last month when Le Saux reacted violently to Fowler's allegedly homophobic taunts.

The pair are understood to have kissed and made up (though not literally, a manly shake of hands was the preferred option) as soon as they met at the team's Buckinghamshire hotel on Sunday night. Keegan then held a 20-minute meeting with them.

The Football Association described this as "a clear-the-air meeting" in which "both made it clear there was no personal animosity and that they were happy to continue as international team-mates."

Keegan said: "I'm delighted Graeme and Robbie were able to shake hands even before I asked them to come to my room. It's very important for them to be able to do so in private rather than publicly."

"I'm satisfied that in no way will our preparation for such an important game be disrupted either as a team, or with them as individuals, by what may have happened in the past. That's all that matters. As far as I'm concerned the issue is over and done with."

This is not the case as far as the FA is concerned, as there is still a misconduct charge hanging over both players. With

that in mind, neither player felt able to comment "on legal advice", which suggests all is not as hunky-dory as Keegan would hope. Nor was there a public handshake for the media. The players were said to have felt it would appear "contrived".

It is understood they will not be sharing a room but they may well be on the same side when Keegan holds his first full training session at Bisham Abbey this morning. The press are invited and any further conflagration between the pair would be "unhelpful".

More serious interest will revolve around Keegan's plans for central midfield. Aside from

Sherwood he could ask Paul Scholes to curb his attacking instincts and fill the holding role or move Gareth Southgate into midfield. Beckham, Darren Anderton and Jamie Redknapp are contenders for play-making responsibilities.

Meanwhile, the England Under-21 side's hopes of qualifying for the European Championship finals have suffered a setback with the withdrawal of the Leicester striker, Emile Heskey. Capped 15 times, Heskey has been forced to pull out of the squad for Friday's group match with Poland at The Dell with a recurrence of a back problem.

Ireland trip still in doubt

THE REPUBLIC of Ireland should find out today whether Saturday's European Championship qualifier in Macedonia will take place. The game, scheduled to be held in Skopje, is in doubt because of the possibility of Nato air strikes in the area.

Uefa, the governing body of European football, could decide to hold the match at a neutral venue or move it to late April. Yugoslavia's match with Croatia in Belgrade is also in doubt. The Irish squad are due to fly to Macedonia on Thursday, and a Football Association of Ireland spokesman said: "We have got to be assured that everything will be safe."

The Republic's manager, Mick McCarthy, said he was preparing his team in the expectation that the game would go ahead. "What's happening in Kosovo is very sad but until somebody in authority tells us to the contrary, we must assume that the match is on," he said.

The Republic's match in Yugoslavia, scheduled for last October, was postponed at the time because Nato countries were considering military action.

Uefa should also reveal today its decision over Wales' request to play Denmark in June in Cardiff, not Liverpool. Uefa has already denied one Welsh attempt to move the fixture, after the Danes expressed their wish for the game to be played at Anfield.

The Wales manager, Bobby

Gould, flew to Geneva yesterday with a delegation from the Football Association of Wales to plead his case. But of more pressing concern for Gould is an injury setback which could rob him of Ryan Giggs against Switzerland next week.

Giggs was missing from the Manchester United line-up against Everton on Sunday because of a hamstring problem, although his club manager, Alex Ferguson, said that he would still join up with his international team-mates on Thursday and a decision would be left to the Football Association of Wales' medical experts.

"Alex has said that Ryan can join us, and that is what will happen," confirmed Gould. "We will have a good look at him on Thursday and take it from there. At the moment I'm concentrating on the Uefa meeting into our appeal to switch the Denmark game to Cardiff. I will start turning my attention to Ryan Giggs when we get back on Tuesday evening."

It is likely Wales that will not be eager to clear up any doubts over Giggs' fitness in order to leave the Swiss guessing until the last moment. But Gould said: "I think the Swiss have more to worry about at the moment with their game in Belarus on Saturday to start thinking whether Ryan Giggs will be facing them in Zurich on Wednesday week."

More football, page 24



Colin McRae flies into the lead in his Ford Focus WRC during the first leg, fourth stage, of the Portuguese Rally yesterday in Fafe, northern Portugal

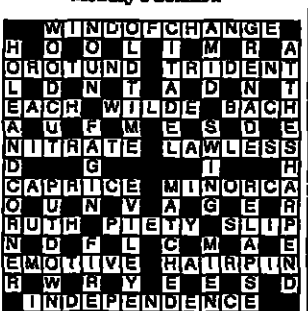
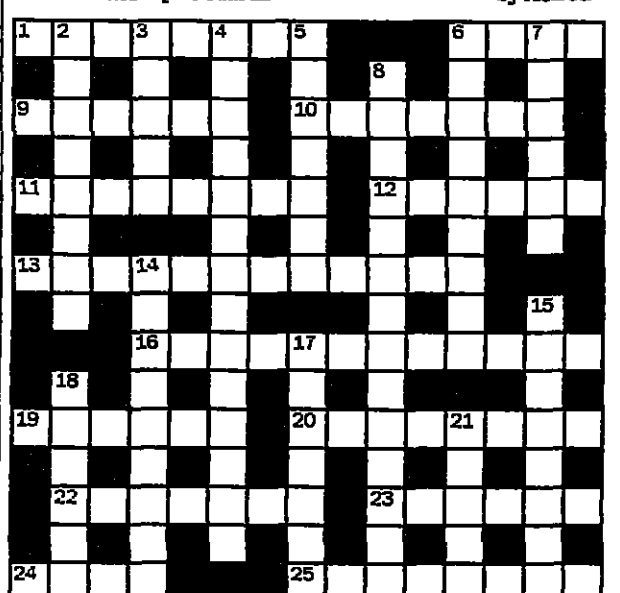
AP

THE TUESDAY CROSSWORD

No.3877 Tuesday 23 March

by Aelred

Monday's Solution



- ACROSS**
- Expected to keep further account for police vehicle (5,3)
 - Criminal grabbing one's money (4)
 - Squeeze glass of beer from container (3,3)
 - Graduate, reportedly one doing without the cane (7)
 - Shm changes in Irish place for US chaff (8)
 - I stay with Frenchman in the same place (6)
 - Pension off very good woman you finally took in (12)
 - Upset rep, his tables must be set up beforehand (3-9)
 - One with snooty person rejected a small tree (8)

- DOWN**
- Kind of watch or equivalent item (8)
 - Woman splits racket in French city (5)
 - Simple roofing material useless for pressing clothes? (10,4)
 - Mink are cooked in dish (7)
 - Dried insects could be

- found in cochlea (9)**
- Woman is a victim of murder (6)
 - No trouble except for the night shift? (3,2,1,4,4)
 - Move in French car carrying name that's German (2,7)
 - Plant has unusual old shape (8)
 - It could get mud off filthy cars for one (7)
 - Leave before time is cut? It's true (6)
 - One animal disease found by new playwright (5)

Bracken in the wars again

RUGBY UNION

BY CHRIS HEWETT

KYRAN BRACKEN, or Kyrán "Broken" as the less sympathetic members of the England dressing-room refer to him, has another malfunction and is 99 per cent certain to miss his country's Grand Slam match with Wales at Wembley on 11 April. The Saracens scrum-half damaged medial ligaments in a knee during Saturday's victory over the French and his absence would raise all sorts of selection possibilities.

The most interesting involves Austin Healey, the "Leicester Lip", who is serving an eight-week suspension for tramping on the face of London Irish's Kevin Punt during an Allied Dunbar Premiership match last month. As Healey himself reminded Clive Woodward, the England coach, on Saturday night, he is free to play again on 10 April.

David Rees, the right wing from Sale whose injury record is challenging that of Bracken both in terms of frequency and variety, has already been ruled out of the Wales game after suffering a bad ankle injury at the weekend.

Woodward may well turn to his most experienced international wing, Tony Underwood, to dig him out of trouble at No 14,

but the casualty list resulting from Saturday's set-to with the Tricolours might almost have been designed to hasten Healey's return to the bench.

Bracken will be bitterly disappointed; considered by most good judges to be the most complete scrum-half in Europe, he appeared to have established himself as Woodward's preferred choice with a display of luminous virtuosity against Ireland in Dublin a little over a fortnight ago. Now he must look on once again as Matthew Dawson, a proud and courageous captain during England's hellish tour of the southern hemisphere last summer, attempts to re-open the debate in the minds of the national selectors.

From his very earliest moments on the international stage, Bracken has suffered a fearful pummelling on the

physical front. He made his debut against the All Blacks in 1993 when Jamie Joseph, the uncompromising Otago flanker, politely welcomed the newcomer to the big time by stamping on his ankle as he flicked the ball away from the first line-out and effectively cost him half a season's rugby. Since then, the 27-year-old half-back has been constantly in the wars - indeed, his 1995 World Cup campaign was effectively ruined by a serious back condition.

Meanwhile, Brian Ashton, the former Bath and Ireland coach, has named a 26-man - rather a 26-teener - party for the IRE/FIRA World Junior Championship, which begins in Wales this Friday. It is a clear sign of the professional times that only seven players have yet to join top-flight Premiership clubs and it seems right and

proper that the two Allied Dunbar pacesetters for so much of the season, Leicester and Northampton, should each have three representatives.

The Tigers contribute the centre, Phil Christophers, and the scrum-half, James Grindal, along with their best-known teenage prospect, the outside-half Andrew Goode, who has already played first-team rugby at Welford Road. Also among the more recognisable names is Bath's Tolid Adebayo, the younger brother of the former Test wing Adedayo Adebayo, who last played for England in last season's Calcutta Cup match at Murrayfield.

England's first game is against the hosts, Wales, at Neath on Friday night. The tournament, featuring teams from a remarkable 42 nations, ends on Sunday 4 April.

Yankee Stadium favoured for rematch

NEW YORK'S 65,000-capacity Yankee Stadium has emerged as the favourite venue to stage Lennox Lewis's world heavyweight title rematch with Evander Holyfield following promoter Don King's announcement that a return unification fight will take place in the autumn.

Holyfield has agreed to the fight, Lewis's manager, Frank Maloney, confirmed last night. It will take place in September or October.

King is keen on the Yankee Stadium because it could at least double the gate receipts of the first fight, which ended in

a controversial draw at Madison Square Garden, New York. Maloney confirmed the fight will almost certainly take place in America, with an "outside chance" of it being staged in Britain.

King, who will promote the fight, has confirmed Holyfield's agreement for a rematch against Lewis which is set to earn the fighters up to \$30m (£12.5m) each in an even split of the purse. Maloney said: "It will be partly purse money. I think the rematch will break

every record in boxing history. The [previous] result was a travesty but in another way it's made everybody in the world aware of boxing."

Meanwhile, the British-based World Boxing Union yesterday revealed that it had sacked the judge Eugenia Williams a year before she adjudicated in the Holyfield v Lewis fight. Williams, the Independent Boxing Federation's nominee from New Jersey, was the only one of the three judges to score the fight in Holyfield's favour.

Now Jon Robinson, presi-

dent of the WBU organisation in Norfolk, has revealed that Williams was removed from his judges' panel for being "a loner" last spring. But he stressed that the WBU had no problems with Williams' scoring and confirmed that on the last two occasions she worked for the body she was in accord with her two colleagues.

The WBU has also announced a new scoring system, designed to avoid similar controversies. It involves awarding 20 points to the winner and between 19 and 16 to the loser of each round.



Williams: Sacked by WBU

TUESDAY REVIEW

COMMENT • FEATURES • ARTS • LISTINGS • TELEVISION



'Tis true, 'tis pity,
and pity 'tis, 'tis true

'Tis total tosh

Yes, yes, it's nice for everybody – nice for the British film industry, nice for the investors, nice for Dame Judi, nice for Marc, nice for Sir Tom, nice for Gwyneth (though maybe not so nice for all those genuinely British Violas who might have been up for the part had someone not been thinking Oscars from the very beginning) but still, yes, yes, nice. And God knows the last thing one wants to do is spoil a good party. But *Shakespeare in Love*. Best Film, in any company, in any year, judged by *any standards* – my masters, are you mad?

Let me be blunt, so that we need not waste time on preliminaries. The film is tosh. 'Tis true, 'tis pity, and pity 'tis, 'tis true – the film is tosh. Literate tosh, I grant you, but that somehow makes it worse. All those fine words and grand cadences – almost all of them Shakespeare's – thrown away on such piffing matter! All that erudition and understanding – almost all of it Shakespeare's – serving that single joke most calculated to please the plainest and most uninformed minds: the anachronism gag. You think wink-wink shots of souvenirs of Stratford are funny? You think an Elizabethan bergamot telling Shakespeare that he had that Christopher Marlowe in the back of the boat is funny? Best film funny? Then you are wrong.

Before a nudge from that same Christopher Mar-

lowe and a decisive glimpse of Gwyneth's boyish bandaged nipples, Shakespeare was intending to call his new play *Ethel the Pirate's Daughter*. That strike you as funny? Piquant in some way? Trenchant? Allusive to some telling silliness in the Elizabethan imagination? Wrong again.

I watched the film in the company of somebody who is, as the saying goes, "in the industry". He was alive to all the jokes about producers and money-men. In making a film about putting on a play, the makers of *Shakespeare in Love* were really making a film about putting on a film. I begrudge no man the pleasure of an in joke. Didn't I, along with everyone else with a degree in English Literature, laugh at visual references to the ghoulish apprenticeship of John Webster? I did. But in the end an in joke is a species of flattery. And he does me double wrong, that wounds me with the flatteries of his tongue.

I am not going to contest the comedy. That Monty Python did it better 25 years will go without saying to anyone who was alive that long ago. That *The Fast Show* does it better now also seems to me unanswerable. So it was smart of the casting director to use members of *The Fast Show* in the film. For there is an inevitable Carry On factor at work. Put in comic actors from a funny television show and they will get laughs willy-nilly. That's the dangerous downside of laughter: it is Pavlovian. But it is not because *Shakespeare in Love* wishes us to laugh at what isn't in its own right funny that it's tooth. That would make it no more than a pallure, something which,

in other circumstances, might just have been a success. *Shakespeare in Love* could never have been a success. It has no foundations; it is a feeble construct on an ugly and baseless idea. Namely that Shakespeare was a dickhead with a Boyzone range of thoughts, suffering a soap star's depression in conjunction with a romantic novelist's writer's block.

I'll be round with you. It's not on Shakespeare's behalf that this bothers me. We must assume, by now, that Shakespeare can take care of himself. Even the best jokes against his tendency to blustering grandiloquence and pedantry – remember those in-

BY HOWARD
JACOBSON

comparable take-offs of the History Plays in *Beyond the Prince?* – have left his reputation unimpaired. No, for Shakespeare himself who on an off-day could become bombast to equal *The Larkes* and is therefore ripe for ridicule, I entertain no anxieties. It's us we should be worried for. Who is it out there who thinks this is the only Shakespeare we can take? How does it behave us as a species, how does it help us, to believe that art is made by a moron in love?

Unable to proceed with *Ethel the Pirate's Daughter*, not given to reading or thinking much, but forever moaning in regulation period Eastcheap or wherever it is that Elizabethans are deemed to have

shouted a lot and bustled unnecessarily, considering that shops weren't open for as long as they are now (anachronism joke). Shakespeare encounters Gwyneth, falls in love with how her voice coo has taught her to pronounce English and how many lines she knows from plays he hasn't written yet, and subsequently spills out of her bed carrying pages of manuscript. Was it Rodin who said he sculpted with his penis? The message of *Shakespeare in Love* is that Shakespeare wrote with his. Gwyneth, bed, nipples, love, moan, morning, manuscript. Magic. No ink. No pen. Nothing. Just Gwyneth in his arms and that's *Romeo and Juliet* completed. Next? Well, next is the film's solipsistic romantic chronology is *Tureff Night* and that's all to do with Gwyneth also. Steadfast in life, she must be the model for Sebastian's constant sister. For surely Shakespeare could never have imagined constancy?

We are out of the cinema long before we get to any problem plays (*Shakespeare in a Bit of Time-Woaz?*) let alone the tragedies (*Shakespeare Upset?*). Which is probably for the best.

Plucking out the heart of Shakespeare's mystery is the name of the game. Behind the offered good-naturedness of the film's determined anti-intellectualism lies a mean-minded academic conspiracy. The conspiracy of the historicists. You will find historicists in every university in the world, invariably the deliverers of the dulllest lectures because they believe in dullness with a flameless passion. They are the ones who tell you that nothing is ever to be

understood in any work of literature unless you know everything about the time in which it was written, and what precisely befell its writer: For this is the beginning and the end of their own expertise. Any interest in the writer's intelligence or imagination, the largeness of his mind, his power to infuse his particular experience with general thought, is considered uneducated, unacademic, fanciful and unreliable.

On the surface this is anti-populist because it gives primacy to scholarship and abstruse knowledge. No work is truly open to you, it says, because you don't know enough. But it meets the present preoccupation with finding a voice in which to please everyone – dumbing down, if you like – in this way: it makes us all equal before the accidents of experience. No one is exceptional. No one makes choices of a different order to the choices we all make. No one thinks otherwise. No one is serious. No one seeks to be unconquered by the common.

Odd, that a moment in the history of the obfuscation of literature should have found popular expression in a movie which flatters ignorance and incuriosity. But maybe everything is now tending to lightness. Fall in love, go on stage, take your pants off, have a laugh, be a sport. Live in your content.

In fact *Shakespeare in Love* tells us a lot more about us than about Shakespeare. The film would pluck out the heart of his mystery, but it doesn't sound him to the top of his compass. It merely sounds our own lowest notes.

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MEDIA

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Kosovo crisis

Sir: Bombing the Serbs will solve nothing. As far as they are concerned, Kosovo is their Holy Grail, and has been an integral part of Serbia for 800 years. They are defending their sovereignty from illegal amputation by a minority. Any Anglo-US attack would have no international mandate and would break international law. It would be an act of aggression against a sovereign state.

Your leading article (22 March) doesn't mention what bombing would achieve. The answer is: nothing. If anything, it would harden the resolve of the Serb people. Although it is pitiful to see civilians fleeing from their homes, Kosovo's Albanians should have known that Serbia will never forsake its "Jerusalem" (which accounts for 20 per cent of the republic) without a fight. Serbia is quite evidently expendable to the Kosovo Albanians and the US and British government but she isn't expendable to the Serbian people. D NOVAKOVIC-PAVLOVIC
London W6

Sir: President Clinton said on Friday, with reference to Kosovo, that "hesitation is a licence to kill". True. An enormous human tragedy is unfolding before our eyes. Why are we witnessing hesitation?

Nato should have acted on Saturday, as soon as the observers had left. Yet we see Richard Holbrooke making another visit. Is it to ask Mr Milosevic's permission to commence hostilities?

Two things are needed very fast. First, a safe area to be created for the Kosovars, free of all Serb security forces. This will need a very large number of ground troops, because the local Serb civilians also need protection and because Serb forces need to be ejected. And second, a speedy referendum for the Kosovars on full independence from Serbia.

Furthermore, the capture and trial of President Milosevic for war crimes is not just desirable but it is imperative, because the parallel with Saddam Hussein and the Kurds in northern Iraq is becoming too painfully obvious. GEOFFREY R CLARK
Morpeth, Kent

Sir: President Milosevic has refused to accept a foreign peace-keeping force in Kosovo, but Nato air strikes on Serbia will not make peace in Kosovo more realisable.

Western European and US mediators may have run out of patience in Paris but bombing a sovereign country to force it into signing a peace accord is a dangerous game. Air strikes against Serbia should not just be seen in the context of retribution for Serbian atrocities against the Kosovar Albanians. For, rather than persuading Milosevic to sign up to the peace agreement, Nato action will only dissuade the Serbs from entering any further peace negotiations and create a further rift between Nato and Russia.

Unlike Iraq, Serbia has no weapons of mass destruction and is not threatening its neighbours. We may feel uncomfortable about the situation in Kosovo but air strikes are not a catch-all solution for every ethnic conflict. MARK FRANKEL
London NW3

Brightest and best?

Sir: The Government's wonderful windfall for the brightest children is absolutely in the right direction ("Heads attack high-flyers tuition plan", 22 March). The big drawback, though, is in the manner of selection of the top 10 per cent - by teachers. When teachers select the gifted, they almost invariably choose well-behaved children who are already highly achieving. Pupils who are outspoken and different are much less likely to be granted access to this bounty, no matter how great their potential.

It is vital that pupils be given some say in their own educational plans. The evidence is that it is their interests and enthusiasm which provide the basis of their future successes, not teacher

approval. As with sport, every child should have the opportunity to practice and use extra facilities in other areas. I've termed this the Sports Approach in my recent Ofsted report on *Educating the Very Able*. It is an inexpensive route and could provide the means for the underachieving gifted to reach high levels. Professor JOAN FREEMAN
London W1

Murder island

Sir: Let us hope Kenneth Taylor's chilling account of the growing numbers of British-Jamaican pensioners who have been murdered after retiring to Jamaica ("Paradise lost", 19 March) will finally force the Jamaican government to move away from its usual defensive stance on such reports, and do whatever is necessary to stop these slaughters of innocent pensioners when they return to what they genuinely hoped would be "home sweet home in paradise".

For too long, the Jamaican government and many Jamaicans have tended to be defensive when issues such as the appalling levels of crime and violence in Jamaica are exposed in the foreign media. The common complaint, particularly from the Jamaican High Commissioner here in Britain, is that Jamaica always gets negative reporting in the British media and stories are often reported "out of context".

The reality is clear: in 1998 alone, over 900 people, including a number of pensioners from Britain and the USA, were murdered in Jamaica, a country of just 2.5 million people.

If the Jamaican government is serious about wanting visitors and expatriates to "come to Jamaica and feel at home", then it had better start finding solutions quickly to its biggest challenge, the frightening reality of crime and violence in Jamaica. B DURRELL
North Greenford, Middlesex

other is why it's getting such saturated coverage on Radio 4. After all, this is an untested aeroplane they're taking up for a spin. It is billed, surprisingly, as London's first literary festival, so you'd think they'd give it a year or two to let it get into its stride before giving Radio 4 over to it.

I don't remember such coverage being given to the Cheltenham Book Festival, or Hay-on-Wye, or the Edinburgh Book Festival or even the just-finished book festival at Bath, certainly never in their first year.

So why does a London book festival get all this amazing free coverage? Because it's in London, dum-dum. Everything that happens in London gets greater coverage than things that happen elsewhere in the country.

A couple of puzzling things about this. One is why it's called "the Word" and not "The Word". The

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Post letters to Letters to the Editor, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, London E14 5DL and include a daytime telephone number, fax to 0171 293 2056 or e-mail to letters@independent.co.uk. E-mail correspondents are asked to give a postal address. Letters may be edited for length and clarity.



HMS Invincible No 2: The two keys to maintaining morale at sea are mail and food. On their bunks in the Junior Ratings quarters, chefs Matthew 'Smudge' Smith, 25 (right) and 'Sharky' Neale, 21, from St Helens, take a break from providing meals 24 hours a day

Neville Elder

Transplant consent

Sir: The recent correspondence regarding organ transplantation has been interesting, and in part alarming. To me, as a nurse, it seems that medical science and technology have progressed with little regard for ethical values.

At the start of my nursing training I was taught to be just as much respect for the dead as the living, and the deceased patient was always left for an hour before our final caring was carried out. Over the years I worked in many units, and never met one nurse who challenged this approach. More recently, in charge of wards which received people with head injuries, that is potential organ donors, a problem arose.

I know that relatives never had the procedure for organ removal fully explained to them - nor did they ask for it. They assumed that their loved ones would be dead in the commonly understood sense, and at this tragic and emotional time it was sometimes a help to them to feel that their bereavement could help some other family.

Mr T T King (letter, 16 March) is correct when he says that many nurses dislike the use of beating-heart donors. We have a much closer relationship with patients and their relatives than the medical staff and find it alien to the principles and practice of nursing.

Sir: I am sure all Virgin Rail passengers will join me in offering heartfelt congratulations to the *Breiting Orbiter* team on being the first to circumnavigate the world by balloon. NIAL MANSFIELD
Cambridge

Sir: Dr Graham Gould (letter, 19 March) could not be more wrong about political correctness. It is always about having the power to dominate by controlling

I completed my career in the hospice movement, where people are allowed to die peacefully, and I just pray that sooner rather than later and alternative to live transplant surgery will be found.

In the meantime everyone should be offered full details of the procedure currently used before being issued with a donor card. They would then be giving informed consent. Mrs SHEILA RING
Chaldon, Surrey

Bleating truckers

Sir: Let's not be taken in by the bleatings of the road haulage lobby ("Talks offer to avert London lorry protest", 22 March). The lorry industry has had its own way for far too long, ruthlessly undercutting the railways and by the early 1990s almost destroying the rail freight network.

This was thanks to the £23bn road-building programme and massive hidden subsidies (the industry made no contribution to the huge environmental costs it imposed). Gordon Brown is at last doing something towards levelling the steep road/rail playing field for freight.

As to their threat to register lorries abroad: so what? Many of the rail wagons in UK domestic traffic are registered in France and Germany. And virtually all British commercial ships fly

foreign flags of convenience. Whatever the tax regime, truckers will continue to dominate the freight industry for many years to come. If some of the corner-cutting cowboys are put out of business, that won't be a bad thing. But don't expect to see many fewer juggernauts on our roads. MARK DORAN
Oxford

No silver lining

Sir: Once again the "silver lining" view of depression re-emerges ("The darkness that has brought humanity light", 20 March). Unfortunately the works of Dickens, Greene, Balzac and other creative artists who have suffered from depressive illness is a benefit to society in general and not to the sufferer. It is but a short step to arguing that while society may sympathise with these individuals for what they endure, it is a price worth paying for works of genius.

The vast majority of us who suffer from depression do not fall into the category of genius. We are ordinary people with average levels of ability. If offered the choice between being depressed and immensely talented or not depressed and untalented, I know no depressive who would opt for the alleged gift of genius. The agony is beyond compensation. STEPHEN HARRISON
Stonehouse, Gloucestershire

Sir: The President of the National Union of Students asserts that "all students have the right to teaching and support from motivated and well-resourced staff. They also have the right to quality." (Students say lecturers not up to the job", 19 March.) If he means "quality teachers", does he agree that university teachers have a right to "quality students"? FREDERICK LANGLEY
Department of French
University of Hull

IN BRIEF

speech and expression. Unlike, say, law enforcement, which proscribes certain actions which are deemed to be bad, PC describes certain correct words and deeds, from which any departure is deemed to be bad. Perhaps Dr Gould should reflect a little on the historical use of the word "heresy". C A BANKS
London SE6



MILES KINGSTON
When people are well-known in London they are assumed to be well-known everywhere

You can imagine someone at Radio 4 saying: "Hot diggity, we're going to have all these famous writers like

Margaret Atwood, and, um, other very famous people all coming into London at the same time and we can pop them into a taxi one by one and get them into the studios at Broadcasting House, if we've got any studios left at Broadcasting House, that is, to record them cheaply and fill the airwaves with writers talking and reading their stuff, and we'll look as if we're doing our cultural duty, and we won't have to pay travelling or overnight expenses for any of them!"

I am not anti-London. I lived in Notting Hill for 20 years and loved it. It's just that having moved out of London 10 years ago I have gradually come to see how London-centric the press and media are.

It's a thing you remain virtually unaware of when you're London-locked. Women often tell me how

Numbers game

Sir: Alarmed at the rapidity with which the next phone number change is upon us and having received no notification from BT about the effect of the changes, I called the BT operator to find out what my number will be after 1 June.

The operator didn't know but gave me the BT national number-change number (0800 224 2000). This, on dialling, was unobtainable.

On calling back, I was told that 0181 will be replaced by 0208, and that my present seven-digit number remains unchanged for local calls. This operator also found the freephone number unobtainable, although she did eventually locate another number which got me through.

I was then given information which contradicted what I had been told earlier: my local number does become eight-digit.

Can I reprint my company's stationery on this basis? ALEC BARTON
London SE23

Public art

Sir: It is understandable that people who own works of art on which inheritance tax has been waived should be reluctant to admit strangers to their houses to see them ("Hidden art forced out of the closet", 20 March). Apart from the security risks, private houses are simply not equipped to deal with visits from the general public.

The obvious answer is that the works should be displayed from time to time in premises which are so equipped: public halls and galleries. If large numbers of privately held pictures, furniture and so forth were assembled each year in regional exhibitions, far more people would see them and the owners could preserve their anonymity. JOHN SWAN
Kedington, Suffolk

Kids today

Sir: It is not surprising that British children are spending more time indoors watching television and playing computer games ("Our generation of couch potato kids", 19 March). Parental safety fears and lack of time to supervise children are factors, but they hide a more profound problem - the lack of priority given to investing in developing good-quality safe playgrounds and safe communities.

Our own work with young people backs what the LSE's latest study shows, that "children prefer to get out". So why aren't we taking action to improve play opportunities for children and young people? In some areas of the country play facilities are practically non-existent and badly maintained. In one area where we work, children actually built their own bike track after their attempts to get the council to make improvements failed.

The Audit Commission's last survey of children's playgrounds shows that just under one playground is provided for every 500 children (1995). But giving children better play opportunities it is not just about building playgrounds; local authorities need to take a more integrated approach and look at ways of creating communities where children can move between play areas, schools and their homes in safety. In the Netherlands, where proper provision for cycling is made, 60 per cent of all the journeys children aged between 12 and 15 make are by bicycle; this compares to 6 per cent in Britain.

Instead of reaffirming the fears that parents have about allowing their children to venture outside, it is time we started tackling those fears by building better safer communities for children to play. BOB REITEMEIER
Operations Director
The Children's Society
London WC1

Sir: Barbara Kew's reasoning (Letter, 20 March) is bizarre. Far from learning "most of their problem-solving techniques from their parents", children tend to judge, and then reject, almost everything their parents have done.

My own divorced parents' four children all reached either death or retirement happily married to one partner. I cannot answer for my siblings, but I know that the spectacle of my parents' miserable disloyalty to each other made me determined to make a better job of the business of marriage. Far from accepting, as Barbara Kew does, that divorce will increase with each generation, I feel that a successful marriage may be the only decent thing left to which our children and grandchildren can aspire. Everything else, today, is too easy. Mrs DORIAN POTTS
Cheltenham, Gloucestershire

Brussels democracy

Sir: David Aaronovitch (Comment, 18 March) urges Tony Blair to adopt an open list for elections to the European Parliament next time around. Yet in his proposal for an elected Commission, he favours a closed system, with Commissioners being elected only by their own countrymen.

The Parliament is a representative assembly, but the Commission is not about national interests - that's what the Council of Ministers is for - but for taking action, when appropriate and with due regard to subsidiarity, in the interests of Europe.

So if there are to be elections for Commissioners, as an Irish person I would like to be able to express preferences for candidates of all nationalities, not least that of England. MIKE NORRIS
Dublin

Many tautologies

Sir: I'm sure the *hoi polloi* aren't in the least bothered about the tautologies your correspondents A J Edwards and Andrew Teal are so incensed about (Letter 22 March). IAN FLINTOFF
London SW6

Is there really intelligent life beyond the M25?

RUNNING MY eye through the BBC radio programmes scheduled for this week, I see that this new London literary festival called "the Word" has done rather well out of Radio 4. On Monday alone we got *Start the Week*, *Radio 4 at the Word*, followed by *Serious Radio 4 at the Word*, and, late at night, *Book at Bedtime*, *Radio 4 at the Word*. *Front Row* is scarcely unable to stay away from it all week, and Melvyn Bragg has also been unable to resist the temptation in his weirdly titled Thursday chat show, *Melvyn Bragg - in Our Time*, except that this week it's got the even more cumbersome title, *Melvyn Bragg - in Our Time: Radio 4 at the Word*.

A couple of puzzling things about this. One is why it's called "the Word" and not "The Word". The

other is why it's getting such saturated coverage on Radio 4. After all, this is an untested aeroplane they're taking up for a spin. It is billed, surprisingly, as London's first literary festival, so you'd think they'd give it a year or two to let it get into its stride before giving Radio 4 over to it.

I don't remember such coverage being given to the Cheltenham Book Festival, or Hay-on-Wye, or the Edinburgh Book Festival or even the just-finished book festival at Bath, certainly never in their first year.

So why does a London book festival get all this amazing free coverage? Because it's in London, dum-dum. Everything that happens in London gets greater coverage than things that happen elsewhere in the country.

Why? Because the people who give it coverage also live in London, and the people they work for also live and work in London, and the people who run the BBC and edit the papers live in London, and they would be less than human if they didn't think that everything that happened in London was more interesting than anything that happened elsewhere.

You or I, living outside London, might think it would be more interesting to have a programme about why London is so unloved that it has never had a book festival before, but you won't get many people in London thinking that's at all interesting. Nobody in London ever imagines London ever being without anything.

Also, it's so very convenient having it all happening in London.

much more male-oriented the world looks if you happen to be female. I remember going to Harlem for the first time and suddenly realising what a white view of the world I had.

It's the same with being a Londoner. Having a London view of the world isn't quite as drastic or radical as being conditioned by your gender or colour, of course, but it's still fairly potent and unconscious. Take last week's guest on *Desert Island Discs*. Sue Lawley presented Fay Maschler as a very famous and award-winning and distinguished and well-known food writer, which may be true in London, but outside London is a load of curly kale.

How can anyone outside London know who Fay Maschler is? Fay Maschler writes on food for the

Evening Standard, which is a local evening paper in the London area. She has no national presence that I am aware of at all. Can you imagine the food critic of the *Edinburgh Evening News* being asked on to *Desert Island Discs*?

No, the plain truth is, when people are well-known in London they are assumed to be well-known everywhere, and that anything that is important to Londoners is important to all, which must be a very warming feeling if you live in London, but tends to piss off the very large majority of people who don't and won't live in London.

On the other hand, lots of other interesting things do happen 100 miles from London that never get mentioned in the London papers. I'll take a risk and promise to mention some of them tomorrow.

29/11/1999

THE INDEPENDENT

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As the world shrinks, consumers are the new champions

YESTERDAY'S DEMONSTRATION by truck drivers in London, against Treasury increases in excise and diesel duties, revealed more than just one industry's grievances. It also revealed how much power globalisation is giving consumers, over both the state and large multinational businesses.

The truckers had a valid case to make. Tempted by an alluring "green" tinge for their policies, while at the same time bringing in vast amounts of revenue, successive ministers have continuously increased petrol and excise duties in order to cut taxes elsewhere. This Government has been no different. Gordon Brown's recent Budget saw such taxes rise way above the rate of inflation, excise duty rising to 12 times that paid by truckers in France. But it is the haulage industry's highlighting of those disparities that is the new and interesting feature of their protest.

With Continental hauliers increasingly active in Britain, and the volume of intra-European trade increasing, the comparisons were inevitable. In the long run, the industry should look to itself for salvation: new fuels and more efficient trucks will help. But disgruntled industries such as haulage will also increasingly turn to Europe - so demonised in certain sections of the British press for promoting inevitable tax rises - as the only forum in which to deal with tax variations in a single market. Haulage is one demonstration of how more European co-operation on consumption taxes could lessen the burden on business rather than increase it.

Exorbitant national taxation is not alone in its new high profile. British consumers are increasingly aware that British firms, as well as the Government, are living more comfortably off them than their counterparts elsewhere. The cost of cars in this country is a notorious example, subject to a recently launched Monopolies and Mergers Commission inquiry. If strict European Union rules on price variation were obeyed, the price of cars would come down overnight. An EU attack on the showroom cartels that inflate car prices would mirror its social action for the low-paid embodied in the Social Chapter of the Maastricht Treaty. If the EU were to be seen acting for consumers as well as workers, it could begin to leave behind the image of an out-of-touch bureaucracy and claim a new popularity. The case also needs to be made that the advent of the euro will promote price transparency.

The car industry is outstripped in public opprobrium only by British supermarkets, which are soon to learn whether they, too, will be referred to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission. Significantly, the Government is threatening to publish price comparisons between British and foreign supermarket goods in order to "name and shame" those charging more than the international norm.



Hail the creators, not their countries

We are witnessing the birth of a smarter consumer, boosted by an Internet still in its infancy but already making an impact on industries as diverse as publishing and tourism. The increasing prevalence of international travel and trade in all industries has seen press and politicians unable any longer to rely on public ignorance as an excuse for inaction on competition, taxation and prices.

In a fast-changing economy, companies such as Microsoft can maintain a comfortable technological dominance for only a few years before that same dynamism proves their undoing as smaller, newer companies take advantage of the trail they have blazed. Newly mobile and educated consumers demand no less, as Europe's leaders should now realise. Competition policy will have to be given more teeth. But politicians should realise that governments are businesses of a sort, too, and that, if they charge too much, the voters may desert them as well as profiteering companies.

ONCE AGAIN, as the Oscars are handed out in Los Angeles, many in this country are hailing "British" triumphs. We are delighted to see the likes of Dame Judi Dench, Tom Stoppard, Marc Norman and Stephen Warbeck collect the golden statuettes, and the plaudits of their peers. But to celebrate their triumph as a "British" success, somehow reflecting glory on the rest of us non-theatricals, seems rather to miss the point. They are honoured not because they are representative of a nation, but precisely because they transcend most people's less artistic lives.

The national conceit does not just affect Britons. Since governments nominate foreign language films from their own nations to the Academy, there is always the temptation to treat that category as a national beauty pageant.

Roberto Benigni's awards are being seen, at least partly, as a breakthrough for the Italian film industry. We should not get too excited. There is much to trumpet about British film, with actors, studios and technical staff among the best in the world. But their efforts owe little to a mythical national "character", and still less (thankfully) to communal action embodied in government intervention. Companies such as Channel 4 and the American concern Miramax handle a fickle industry better than the likes of the Lottery Board, yet to sponsor a hit film.

So while celebrating the success of the winning films and film-makers, we should avoid the temptation to be jingoistic. It does not really matter whether a film is British, American or Chinese. What matters most is that as many films as possible are made, expressing a diversity of outlook and catering to a variety of tastes. The example of Shakespeare, the unwitting star of Sunday night's spectacular, is that universal ideas and feelings that all peoples share are the key to creative success.

An Oscar that reminds us of a cowardly, shameful little episode

ONCE AGAIN the American media industry has congratulated a part of Britain - England this time - for actually having a history. Queens, ruffs and doublets are all the fashion. But, this time, the more recent and painful past of the United States itself, was also on view at the Oscars ceremony. Director Elia Kazan, in his 90th year, was given the lifetime achievements award, traditionally bestowed upon anyone famous and fabulously old, who has managed not to die in the preceding year. But outside there were demonstrations against Kazan, involving some people almost as ancient as he. Why?

Kazan won his first director's Oscar way back in 1948, for a classic liberal film - *Gentleman's Agreement* - which exposed anti-Semitism in post-war America. But two weeks after the movie's release the previous year, his writer, Ring Lardner Jr, had been one of 10 Hollywood writers or directors hauled up before the House Un-American Activities Committee (HUAC), which was investigating communism in the movie industry. By the beginning of 1950 all 10 had been imprisoned for contempt. And all 10 - and hundreds of others - had been put on a blacklist.


Now let us run the spool forward to January 1952, when - with senator Joe McCarthy at the helm - HUAC came back for more. Elia Kazan, one of the most celebrated directors in Hollywood, was summoned before the committee, and asked about a period in the mid 1930s when he ran a left wing theatre group. Would he name those around him at that time,

who were members of the Communist party? At first Kazan said that he would not. But then, on 10 April, he relented, naming the writers Clifford Odets and Lillian Hellman, among others. Those who mounted the demonstration last Sunday night were there because they could not forgive what they still saw as an act of betrayal.

In the wake of Vietnam and détente, the orthodoxy in intellectual circles on both sides of the Atlantic, was totally hostile to the McCarthy witch-hunt and those who collaborated with it. Several films of the 1970s and 1980s, including Woody Allen's *The Front*, dealt with the impact of the blacklist, the wedge it drove between friends, the suicides that resulted from it, and the huge creative cost it entailed. Arthur Miller's play, *The Crucible*, is probably the best-known encapsulation of this sentiment.

But the award to Kazan reflects the fact that revisionism has been at work here, as elsewhere. The columnist Richard Cohen, writing in *The Washington Post* argued that Kazan's "cause was good, his method was bad. But now it is only the cause that seems to matter." The cause was anti-communism. And it's the fall of the Berlin wall that has rendered the cause more important than the method.

To take Miller's analogy, what the new thinking says is that there were indeed witches in Salem. Or, at least, there were bloody good reasons for supposing that some citizens were black magic enthusiasts. In the dark years of the early Cold War Stalin's Russia represented a real danger to democracy, and local Communists



DAVID AARONOVITCH
Ordinary communists were trying to make sense of a world of exploitation, segregation and injustice

were Stalin's foot-soldiers. Furthermore, with an evil of such liberal utility, it would have been naive to expect it to be defeated by liberalism alone. This argument was heard in Britain after it was revealed, last year, that the liberal pin-up George Orwell, had passed on to M15 contacts a list of 35 names of acquaintances who he considered to be Soviet fellow-travellers.

Orwell's little book of names is an uncomfortable read, not least to someone like me who has been converted to him so recently. It is hard to know what to make of his comment that Paul Robeson, the singer and campaigner for black rights was "anti-white". And the truth about the Hollywood Ten, as Kazan must surely have known, is that they represented no threat whatsoever to

anyone's way of life. No more than did the New York lavatory attendant, dismissed from his job at around this time, because he was a communist.

It is hard for non-communists to accept, I know, but the main motivation behind those who were ordinary communists in the Cold war period, was not to do with Russia and Uncle Joe and world revolution. What they were trying to do was make ideological sense of a world in which they saw migrant workers exploited, union rights denied, segregation rampant, anti-colonial movements suppressed and injustice rife. And, often for very good reasons, they did not believe anything that their governments or newspapers told them. They knew the world they lived in was not as, say, *The Times* or the BBC described it. Why then should they believe that Russia was as bad as they were being told?

But it was, even so, that, I think, isn't the reason that Kazan shopped his old comrades. In his 1988 autobiography, Kazan reports a 1952 conversation with Arthur Miller, in which he had told Miller that, "Shkouras (the head of Fox studios) implied that I couldn't work in pictures anymore if I didn't name the other lefties in the group. What the hell am I giving all this up for? To defend a secrecy I don't think right and to defend people who've already been named, or soon would be by someone else? I've hated the communists for many years and don't feel right about giving up my career to defend them."

It was an agonising decision, and most of us must hope that we never have to make one like it. Even so, in

that instance (and Kazan had seen what had happened to Lardner and others), it was a cowardly choice, a choice to be on the side of the bully, and not the bullied. In 1952 the pitiful remnants of the American left were on one side, and the power of the press, the studios, the companies and the politicians was on the other.

Perhaps that's why Kazan also wrote this in his autobiography: "For years I declared myself an ardent liberal in politics, made all the popular declarations of faith, but the truth was - and is - that I am, like most of you, a bourgeois. When it comes to the crunch, I am revealed to be a person interested only in what most artists are interested in, himself." A month after Kazan's appearance before HUAC, it was Lillian Hellman's turn. "I cannot and will not cut my conscience to fit this year's fashions," she told the committee.

If the revisionist position is popular at the moment, Hellman's is increasingly a stance that - in these relativist times - intellectuals (not to mention stand-up comedians) have come to admire. Will Self's almost reverential interview with that totally uncompromising American feminist Andrea Dworkin, in the latest edition of *The Independent on Sunday*, shows how some now value anger and authenticity over respectability. I see this too. But the trick is somehow to embrace courage, without falling for the whole schtick.

It wasn't badness that made some good Americans support Stalin, but a desire to tie up loose ends. The solution is to leave 'em loose.

QUOTE OF THE DAY
"I feel for eight minutes on the screen I should only get a little bit of him."
Dame Judi Dench
on receiving her Oscar for best supporting actress

THOUGHT FOR THE DAY
"Politics is the art of preventing people from taking part in affairs which properly concern them."
Paul Valéry,
French poet and essayist

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AIR STRIKES for their own sake will be valueless unless they bring the Serbs back to the negotiating table or halt the carnage being wrought in Kosovo. Neither seems a possibility. A stronger possibility is protracted involvement in a conflict that will cost lives and set members of the international community against one another. Any action taken now must be with the broadest possible international consensus. *Hong Kong Standard*

THE KOSOVO crisis has been handled in such a hare-brained fashion that one can only conclude that no lessons were learned at all from dealing with the Serbs in Bosnia. It is the duty of the Clinton administration to present a plan of action to Congress. What we have heard so far is strategically ill-defined and open-ended. It is defined and open-ended, clear that a major loss of credibility has affected Clinton at home as well as abroad for a number of reasons. Still, this

country is bigger than one man, and there is an obligation to take American commitments and responsibilities seriously. *The Washington Times*

EITHER NATO strikes and takes away a piece of land from Yugoslav rule - thereby provoking a Slav-Orthodox wave of solidarity, or NATO makes a fool of itself as a result

of its many empty threats - thus even downgrading its geo-political success in enlarging to the East. The long preparation for the decision to crush Serbia's power of oppression has not strengthened but only weakened NATO. In the end, it will not be important to realise which details were right or wrong but only whether NATO withstood the provocation. *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung*

AN ARGUMENT can be made for the need to interpose international troops between the irresistible force of the Albanians' Kosovo Liberation Army and the immovable object of Slobodan Milosevic's army and police. But to stretch that intervention into a neo-Wilsonian version of selectively promoting indiscriminate nation-state building seems foolhardy. And can anyone imagine creating a new state by bombing? *USA Today*

425?

PANDORA

PANDORA READERS will recall the efforts of the conceptual artist Martin Creed to tell the residents in Clapton, London that "Everything is going to be alright". The sentiment was lit up over a Grade-II listed building on Sunday evening and the neonest was witnessed by a gaggle of locals and curious visitors. Some of the locals remained unimpressed. One told the artist it was "patronising", while another was more concerned with aesthetics: "It looks like a kebab shop sign. There should be a rotating doner in the middle of it." There were positive responses too and assurances that the exercise would help to secure the building's "long-term renovation". Attention turned to Creed, the artist himself. What would he be his next project? "Balloons," came the reply.

BALLOONS ARE also being used as the weapon of the European Parliament to encourage floating voters to glide into the polls for June's Euro elections. A hot-air balloon will be drifting over Leeds in May to whet the appetite of good Yorkshire folk for a spot of Euroballots. After the rumpus at the European Commission, continental democracy needs a boost - but is making the obvious link between euro-politics and hot air going to help?

ONE EC mighty who fell, Edith Cresson, should have seen her own downfall coming. It was Pandora who first alerted the public to allegations that the former French PM was receiving disastrous advice in the form of "private astrology forecasts" from crony René Berthelot. Sadly the advice "dump me or there will be trouble ahead" was not offered by Berthelot. However, the Plat-invoking ex-commissioner may feel tempted to turn down one function that she was due to attend in Germany this summer. It's titled "Ethics and Science - The Social, Juridical and Philosophical Debate."

ACERBIC TV dude Victor Lewis-Smith is in trouble again. The dreadlocked one recently savaged C4's disability show *Fraser Out* in an *Evening Standard* column. Of thalidomide guy Mat Fraser (pictured) VL-S said: "His biggest disability was his personality." Fair enough - it's equal opportunity vitriol, isn't it? However, what's less well known is that Fraser bumped into

Lewis-Smith in C4's reception area shortly after the review appeared. Fraser confronted the notoriously excitable VL-S and asked him when he would stop cracking disability gags. To which VL-S characteristically replied that he'd make a particular point of cracking more disability gags in future. Fraser invited VL-S to step outside and settle their differences in a man-to-man fashion. The exchange then deteriorated into a scuffle with Lewis-Smith screaming for the security guards before legging it. The critic must have remembered pointing out in his own review that Fraser numbers kick-boxing among his hobbies.

SENIOR EXECUTIVES of *The Express* newspaper are currently holed away deep in the English countryside in a two-day "think-tank" aimed at reviving the paper's disastrously flagging fortunes. But declining sales are not the only hot topic on the agenda. A positively steaming issue among the suits is to determine which one of them survived his less halcyon days by dining on dog food and by making his own shoes. Pandora, too, is intrigued by this sad, shaggy dog story. Anyone who can come walkies across Blackfriars Bridge with the name of the Kennomeat Kid should call on 0171-293 2869.

SEX FANTASIES of the rich and famous. The new monthly *Erotic Review* has this insight into the psyche of these eye-candy Anna Chancellors. The star of *Four Weddings...* and ITV's *The Vice* has Gallic rough diamond Jean Gabin as top of her pops. Chancellor's "dream" is that Gabin (now dead) plays the piano as she enters; the couple then duet on top of the instrument. The climax comes when an elated Gabin lifts Anna off the piano, gazes into her limpid pools and murmurs, "The journey has just begun. It's time to catch the train again; but this time the couquette will be a double." Cinema lovers who have seen Gabin's

energetic performance in *La Bête Humaine* already know exactly where this train's headed.

STRAIGHT-FACED quote from Cate Blanchett on going head-to-head with Gwyneth Paltrow for the Best Actress Oscar: "I don't see it as a competition." Now that's what Pandora calls acting.

Contact Pandora by e-mail: pandora@independent.co.uk

Sorry, I just don't like beardies



TERENCE BLACKER

Imagine Jimmy Hill, Sir Dickie Attenborough and Frank Dobson together and you see the problem

against someone because of who they are and how they look. That is unacceptable.

At this point, the argument becomes as tangled as David Bellamy's beard. Could it be that Flett is having a laugh, too? It seems unlikely.

Apart from the fact that facial hair is a sure sign of humanness (think only of the sublime, clean-

shaven John Cleese of the early years and the dreary, bearded psychobabbler of more recent times), there's the reference to the report on the death of Stephen Lawrence - a jaw-dropping comparison, at least for those of us who have jaws to drop.

Once any form of prejudice is regarded as essentially part of the same moral problem as more serious intolerance, then madness will follow. For example, this column might already have prompted several Flett-esque letters to the editor: "Sir, To suggest that the famously witty Swedes lack a sense of humour is offensive to..." Sir, Your columnist's casual deployment of the term "psychobabbler" reveals a deep-seated bias against those of us in the psychiatric profession...

Whatever the reason men have for growing beards (shyness, vanity, perhaps), I'm in favour of them facing up to their dysfunction. An act of self-presentation which, while drawing attention to itself, perversely provides a hedge of protection is surely a cry for help.

Clearly there are good beards as well as bad beards - for every Robin

Cook, Manfred Mann or Maharishi Yogi, there's a David Blunkett, Bob Dylan or Jesus Christ - but, unfortunately, most beards are bad beards. Imagine Sir Dickie Attenborough, Jimmy Hill, Clement Freud, Frank Dobson and Sir Peter Hall in a studio together and you begin to see the problem.

Obviously, there are worse things than beards. Sideboards, for example. Who, studying the behaviour of the prostitute-stalking prime minister William Gladstone, the severe moralist Sir Rhodes Boyson or Slade's tuneless three-chord basher Noddy Holder, could seriously deny the connection between bushy facial mutton-chops and a problematic personality?

To those who will argue that my beardism is illogical and betrays a deep seated fear of the masculine, I would merely point out that others merely have a different set of prejudices - against people who smoke, or wear fur, or eat the wrong kind of food or talk on mobile telephones in restaurants.

Far from being the first slither down a slope leading to hatred, the amiable expression of minor intol-

erances is a social safety valve, a provision of colour in an increasingly grey world. Over-reaction to it leads only to moral confusion.

There were signs of the trend a few years ago when Randy Newman's ironic treatment of bigotry, "Short People", led to an absurd row over his alleged prejudice. Since then, knee-jerk disapproval of attitudes deemed unacceptable has become the norm.

It was there, disturbingly, in the Glenn Hoddie incident and in reactions to the bottom-wiggling antics of the Liverpool footballer Robbie Fowler. It was evident in a letter to the *London Review of Books* in which a correspondent claimed, in apparent seriousness, that the journalist Christopher Hitchens was "a self-confessed homophobe" on the grounds that he had once made a joke about the Cambridge spy ring and had argued that "people's sexual preferences are a legitimate subject for humour, dirty humour if at all possible".

The people who find so much of which to disapprove in modern life are almost certainly beardies, weirdies, but that it still no excuse

Is Indonesia becoming the Balkans of the Far East?



RICHARD LLOYD PARRY

Armed warriors have paraded through their villages carrying severed ears, arms and heads

JUST A few miles away from the place where I write this, a small coastal town in the Indonesian part of Borneo, human beings are doing unimaginable things to one another in the jungle. Thousands of ethnic Madurese have been burned out of their homes and scores murdered, and the burning and the killings are continuing. In the past three days armed warriors have paraded through their villages carrying severed ears, arms and heads. The motive is pure racial hatred. The police and army are impatient or indifferent. And the same kind of communal violence, for different reasons and by different means, is happening all over Indonesia.

Three weeks ago I was in the Spice Islands where Christians and Muslims are locked into their own murderous battle of religion, a tropical Northern Ireland in the making. Elsewhere in the archipelago, three of Indonesia's 27 provinces have declared their independence - one of them, East Timor, is almost certain to break away from the republic in the next year. In Jakarta, demonstrations against the government are gathering momentum in the approach to June's elections - during the last big demo, in November, 13 people were shot dead.

To Europeans, all this should have a disturbingly familiar ring - a large state, ethnically and religiously diverse, which throws off a corrupt dictatorship, only to find itself stricken by communal violence. Is the world's fourth largest country breaking up? Will Indonesia become an Equatorial Yugoslavia?

It is an urgent question because the consequences of instability here would be serious. Indonesia's 13,000 islands occupy the crossroads of Asia, an area of profound strategic, political and environmental importance to the rest of the world. A sub-

stantial part of the world's oil passes through the country's territorial waters - prolonged disruption to shipping in the Straits of Malacca, for instance, would seriously affect the economies of both Japan and China. And Indonesia's sprawling expanse makes it a neighbour to the whole region. The prospect of an exodus of refugees from a population of 210 million causes alarm from Canberra to Bangkok.

This is why foreign governments gave such enthusiastic and unquestioning support to President Suharto, the man who bears the greatest responsibility for Indonesia's present turmoil. For 32 years, he ruled a country which, from the outside, appeared to be a model of Third World development. GDP soared, population growth was slowed, poverty was reduced and illiteracy was virtually eliminated. His predecessor, Sukarno, had been an unpredictable demagogue who flirted with communism and fought a low-intensity war with Malaysia. No wonder the countries of the west, Britain among them, were so willing

to supply him with arms and to turn a blind eye to the brutal annexation of East Timor.

Everyone knew that Suharto's rule was based upon fear; the more astute could see that the benefits of Indonesia's success were disproportionately concentrated in Suharto's home, the main island of Java. At the time, however, he seemed to have succeeded in bringing about permanent stability. Only in the last two years it has become obvious what an illusion that was.

As a nation state, Indonesia was always an unlikely proposition - the only thing that its diverse people had in common was their colonial history as the former Dutch East Indies. Rather than eliminating ethnic and religious difference, Suharto froze them, forcing unity and stifling dissent with a repressive military apparatus. Last May the thaw set in, and in the last 10 months the old enmities have emerged pristinely from the ice.

This is the best way of understanding the grisly diversity of violence presently on display in Indonesia. The hanging of traditional sorcerers in East Java, and the beheading of Madurese settlers in Borneo have nothing in common in terms of direct motivation. But both are symptoms of the same sickness - a combination of economic distress and the break down of law and order, among populations which have no other means of expressing a deep sense of injustice and pent-up frustration.

But there are huge differences as well as similarities, and for several reasons the Balkans experience is unlikely to repeat itself here. The most basic of these is Indonesia's size, a source of passive strength as well as vulnerability. In Yugoslavia, two religions and a handful of ethnic groups battle for a geographically



East Timorese villagers preparing their defences Reuters

and historically uniform region - they are fighting for what they have in common. But Indonesians are as diverse as any people in the world. To an ethnically Chinese Christian yuppy in Jakarta, the independence struggles of animist tribesmen in Irian Jaya are almost as alien as they are to the inhabitants of London or New York. However concentrated power may be in Java, no single ethnic or religious group is powerful enough to threaten the whole. For all their frustration with their central government, Indonesia's provinces have much to lose from breaking away. East Timor is misleading in this respect for in every way it is an exception. As a former Portuguese colony, it was never part of the Dutch empire and played no part in the Indonesian war of independence. Despite its passive capitulation, the UN never recognised Jakarta's annexation. Indonesia's announcement that it is prepared to give it independence came as a result of international pressure, and a brilliantly effective campaign by NGOs and East Timorese exiles.

East Timor's struggle has been one of principle, but in the rest of the archipelago dissatisfaction has its roots in practical matters. In Borneo, Aceh and Irian Jaya, big corporations have made fortunes in timber, oil and copper with negligible benefit to the population at large. Resentment for this exploitation has laid the ground for independence movements and outbreaks of violence. But what people want is not sovereignty so much as justice.

All now depends on the outcome of general elections to be held in June - the closest Indonesia has come to real democracy since 1955. A decisive victory for a popular and visionary president could halt the paralysis which the country is experiencing under Suharto's unpopular successor and appointee, BJ Habibie. But with 48 parties competing and no clear favourite among a handful of frontrunners, such a clean result is unlikely. Instead of sudden anarchy or civil war, Indonesia faces decades of uncertainty, a directionless drift back into the Third World.

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Cherish the politics of diversity



PODIUM

HUGO HINSLEY
From a speech by the community architect to the Architectural Association's conference in London

that racial or cultural groups are homogenous or can be thought of as a "community".

In my experience one cannot assume a coherence in the wishes of a minority group - about integration or separate identity, or about any issues affecting their lives - any more than one can find coherence of groups in white society.

Many inner urban areas with ethnic minority populations experience the tension

between urban regeneration and "gentrification". Trying to block all change in an area is ineffective; achieving real engagement in decisions about change is very difficult, particularly for people who have little power. The negotiation of a process of real and fair improvement needs an effective political process giving the existing population genuine representation and access to information and resources.

The forces of exclusion can be strong and people from minorities may be hesitant to enter local politics or other forms of negotiation - but active democratic processes and local initiatives are vital.

We can aim for mutual respect and fairer access to resources. But I don't think we should seek a homogenous society and culture. Indeed this seems an impossible as well as an undesirable goal.

London, of all cities, demonstrates the energy and creativity that comes from diversity and difference. Rather than seeking a politics of inclusion, a universalising model of contentment, we should value adversarial exchange. In order to flourish

such characteristics need a society with stronger mechanisms of social justice.

Architectural design can't produce this; economic or social policies alone - or any other policies alone - can't produce this. But we can learn from positive examples and develop better tools and ideas across professions and through engagement and exchange with locally based initiatives.

We have a long way to go in Britain to achieve this, but even with its many problems, multi-cultural London sometimes shows what a better spatial, cultural and political world we could make.

As a concrete contribution, a Stephen Lawrence Scholarship has been established at the Architectural Association. Stephen planned to study architecture. This is a full-time award to enable a student of similar background to study at the Architectural Association on the RIBA-recognised course in architecture. Details of the scholarship are available from the association, at 36 Bedford Square. I hope you will agree that it is a project worth supporting and worth applying for.

Handwritten note: 0161 278 8574

José Agustín Goytisolo

JOSE AGUSTIN Goytisolo, the eldest and best of three literary brothers, was a key figure in a group who revitalised lyrical poetry in the 1950s after civil war and Franco's dictatorship had crushed Spanish intellectual life.

"We were few, but we made a noise," he said about his fellow poets based in Barcelona, known as the "1950s generation". He called himself a "salpêtrier from the left" in the dark days of Franco's rule when it was impossible for Spanish artists or writers to remain politically neutral. He was imprisoned on several occasions.

Too young to have fought in the Civil War, he became a fierce anti-Francoist after his mother, Julia Gay, was killed in the Fascist bombardment of Barcelona in 1938, when he was 10. His family, prosperous Spanish-speaking Catalans, were devastated by the tragedy. José Agustín named his daughter Julia in memory of his mother.

He never joined a political party, although he - like his brothers, Juan and Luis - was close to the Communists and he considered his art as a political instrument. "There were no rules, everybody wrote what they wanted and the only things we had in common were the colloquial tone, the use of satire, the celebration of the city and the opposition to Franco's regime," the poet said of those early years.

Goytisolo studied at Barcelona University, then in Madrid, and graduated as a lawyer. As a student he flung himself into the hedonistic enjoyment of drink, tobacco and sex that he maintained throughout his life. His first work, *El Retorno* ("The Return"), published in 1955, showed his rebellious spirit. This was followed in 1956 by *Salmos al viento* ("Psalms in the Wind") and in 1959 by *Claridad* ("Clarity"). In *Algo sucede* ("Something's Happening", 1968), he restated the value of poetry as a political weapon.

Irony, sarcasm and a passionate de-



Goytisolo: 'We were few, but we made a noise' *El País*

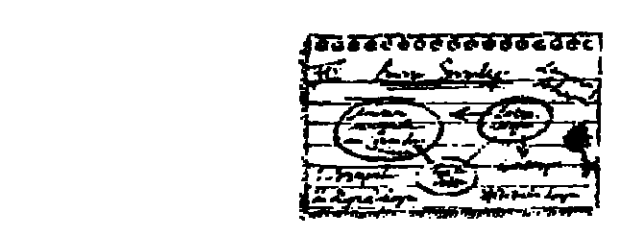
fence of liberty ran through his work, all of which enjoyed huge popularity and was reprinted again and again. Best known is his poem "Palabras para Julia" ("Words for Julia"), dedicated to his daughter and commemorating his mother, a tender encouragement to overcome bitter times and celebrate life.

"You can't go back because life is already pushing you / with an interminable howl / You will feel trapped / you will feel lost or alone / sometimes you will wish you had not been born."

Never give up nor fall / by the wayside, never say / I can't do more, enough / Life is beautiful, you'll see ...

The poem was set to music by the singer Paco Ibáñez, and the two men toured the country in the mid-1960s to huge acclaim in a stage show entitled *La Voz y la Palabra* ("The Voice and the Word") in which the singer sang and the poet recited his works. He remained prolific up to his death.

Prono to depression, Goytisolo was reported to have committed suicide by



ARCHITECTURAL NOTES ALEX KING

Monuments with no fixed meaning

THE PUBLIC'S relationship with monumental art is frequently a difficult one. Monuments are often sources of friction and argument. Before they are completed they are intended to say and, afterwards, about what they really mean. A deep and widely shared desire to commemorate someone or something, such as the victim of disasters or wars, does not make things easier. For, if a whole community is genuinely interested in making its divisions and mixtures of motives to the work.

Probably the most popular European monuments, at least when they were built, were those to the dead of the Great War, but there has been little lasting agreement about their purpose, quality or effectiveness. From the beginning, there were differences about what they ought to mean. In 1920, the Lord Mayor of Leeds was in favour of "a reminder of bereavement" rather than a celebration of victory. A Glasgow writer, writing to the local press, wanted monuments to remind generations of the heroism of their forefathers and "the greatness of the stock they have sprung from". The war correspondent Philip Gibbs wanted them to be "the safeguard of the living by teaching those who follow to learn wisdom by our stupidity, and to cherish the gift of peace".

The significance of remembering the dead was loudly debated year after year on Armistice Day, in speeches, sermons and newspaper editorials, inescapably connecting mourning for the dead with questions about domestic and world politics which the circumstances of their deaths had raised. Consequently, monuments became pegs on which to hang a great variety of conflicting views.

Even though they were intended to assuage bitterness and loss, monuments and the memories associated with them offered no answers to questions about the meaning of war and death. On the contrary, they forced people to keep asking whether the consequences of the war had been worth the suffering, and what could be done to give some retrospective meaning to it all.

Looking at these monuments today, there is hardly a hint that they were once the centre of so much controversy. Most of them appear thoroughly conventional, and remarkably reticent in the face of the disasters which the Great War brought forth. But their reticence was their great strength. Because they rarely attempted to force a point of view on their addressees about the ultimate value of death in war, beyond saying that the dead had been honourable, people who would never agree on the subject were prepared to join together in building them and treating them with reverence. Within generous limits, monuments were open to interpretation, and those who joined in erecting them, and later joined the ceremonies held at them, took full advantage of the freedom they were offered to justify their involvement in terms which satisfied their own desires and interests. They spent out to see in monuments through ritual acts, dedicatory addresses and critical interpretations. While some people interpreted them as monuments to national triumph over rival peoples, and to the glory of British arms, others saw them as reminders of the horror, waste and ultimate futility of war, and as important devices in the campaign to prevent war occurring again.

The meaning of monuments like these is not fixed. It depends not so much on what the monuments look like as on how the public become involved with them - in commissioning and building them, honouring and talking about them. Because war monuments played a crucial part in questioning and campaigning on urgent contemporary issues, public involvement with them remained vigorous and argumentative for two decades between the World Wars. In this respect they were a remarkable success.

Alex King is author of *Memorials of the Great War in Britain: the symbolism and politics of remembrance* (Berg Publishers, £14.95)

Betty Roché



Roché: 'Take the A Train'

IF EVER anyone was at the right place at the wrong time, it was Betty Roché. Despite the inspiration and sure-footed nature of her music, Duke Ellington's taste in band singers proved controversial, and most of them only found grudging acceptance from jazz fans. But nobody argued over Betty Roché. She had a particularly clear diction, and her style was light and swinging, particularly suited to Ellington's music of the Forties. Her recording of Ellington's signature tune "Take the A Train" with the band in 1952 has remained one of the most famous of Ellington's recordings. Despite it, Roché slipped through a crack in the floorboards.

Ivie Anderson had been the singer with the Ellington band throughout the Thirties. "Poor health" was the altruistic reason given for her leaving the band in 1942. But in fact she left to oversee the running of her Los Angeles restaurant "Ivie's Chicken Shack". Ellington replaced her with a trio of girl singers. One of them, Phyllis Smiley, left fairly quickly. Another, Joya Sherrill, had to leave the band at the end of the summer to go back to school. The third girl, Roché, stayed on.

Like so many future stars, Roché had started off by winning a talent contest at the Apollo Theater in Harlem when she was 17. This led eventually to her joining the Savoy Sultans, the resident band at the Savoy Ballroom, in 1941.

through New York to Harlem. As she sang "You'll find it's the quickest way to get to Harlem", the train was shown - typical of Hollywood - racing across the open prairie.

The American musicians' union (the AFM) had imposed a ban on recording that lasted throughout Roché's period with Ellington and she was thus denied the fame that would undoubtedly have come to her had she featured on the band's records.

In January 1943 Ellington's became the first black band to give a concert at Carnegie Hall. That evening he gave the first performance of one of his most controversial compositions, his 45-minute "Black, Brown and Beige" suite. Roché sang the famous "Blues" section, with its pyramid-like construction of lyrics. This piece was designed to express the feelings of black life in the cities of America at the beginning of the century. The concert was recorded, but the results were not issued until 40 years later. By the time Ellington recorded a studio version in 1984, Roché had left the band.

Roché's attitude to working tended towards the feckless and she left Ellington during 1943, eventually joining the band led by the pianist Earl Hines in 1944, with whom she also recorded. Again, she didn't stay long, and left music altogether for a number of years, unexpectedly rejoining Ellington in 1951.

In June 1952 she recorded the extended version of "Take the A Train" with the band, and this became so successful that Ellington repeated it in all his broadcasts of the time. It was to be the high point of her career, and when she left the band again in 1954 Ray Nance, a highly original trumpeter and singer with the band, continued to use the version of the song that Roché had created. The album that included Roché's performance of the song is still a big seller today, and it is this version, rather than the original solely instrumental version that most people remember.

Roché's career remained erratic. She recorded an album for the Bethlehem label in 1956, predictably called *Take the A Train*, and another, *Singin' and Swingin'*, for Prestige in 1960. Her last album was done for Prestige the following year. Although she worked sporadically in clubs, she seemed to be half-hearted about her career, and eventually slipped into obscurity a few years later.

Ellington wrote of her in his autobiography, "She had a soul infection in a boy state of intrigue and every word was understandable despite the sophisticated hip and jive connotations."

Steve Voce

Mary Elizabeth Roché, singer: born Wilmington, Delaware 9 January 1920; married; died Pleasantville, New Jersey 16 February 1999.

Jurisdiction test for industrial tribunal

WHEN DECIDING whether an industrial tribunal has jurisdiction to hear a claim of unfair dismissal under section 196(2) of the Employment Rights Act 1996, the correct test in deciding whether an employee ordinarily worked within Great Britain was the "contract test", which obliged the court to look to the terms of his contract of employment. In relation to the question of jurisdiction for the purposes of section 6(2) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, a tribunal had to consider not where an employee ordinarily worked, but where, at the time of the alleged discrimination, he was "wholly or mainly" working.

The Court of Appeal upheld the decision of the Employment Appeal Tribunal that an industrial tribunal had lacked jurisdiction to hear the appellant's complaint of unfair dismissal, but remitted her claim of discrimination on the ground of her sex to a different industrial tribunal.

The appellant had worked for Saudi Arabian Airlines as a flight attendant until her resignation in 1996. Her contract of employment made no provision as to where she would be based save that "the employee shall be based at any location to which Saudi operates in or out of the Kingdom and may be transferred from one location to another". The contract also provided that "this contract will be treated as cancelled without notice or compensation to the employee should any of the conditions stipulated for employment or service continuation cease, such as medical or physical fitness, or pregnancy".

The appellant claimed before an industrial tribunal to have resigned to have a baby, pregnancy being incompatible with her employment. She alleged that she had been unfairly constructively dismissed in breach of section 94(1) of the Employment Rights Act 1996; and that she had been discriminated against by her employer on the ground of her sex contrary to section 6(2)(b) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975.

The industrial tribunal found that the appellant did not ordinarily work within Great Britain and was thus not qualified to bring a complaint within the tribunal's jurisdiction under either Act. Its decision was upheld on appeal to the Employment Appeal Tribunal. David Bean QC and Thomas Lindall (Pattinson & Brewer) for the appellant; Timothy Brennan (Clifford Chance) for the respondent.

Lord Justice Mantell said that for the purposes of section 196(2) of the Employment Rights Act 1996, the correct test in deciding whether under his contract of employment an employee ordinarily worked outside Great Britain was the "contract test", which obliged the court to look to the terms of the contract rather than what had actually happened during the employment.

So viewed, and looking at the whole period contemplated by the contract, it was clear that the appellant's base could have been nowhere other than Jeddah. There had accordingly been no flaw in the reasoning of the industrial tribunal nor in the rejection of the appellant's appeal by the Employment Appeal Tribunal in relation to the claim of unfair dismissal.

For the purposes of section 6(2) of the Sex Discrimination Act 1975, however, the industrial tribunal had had to consider not where the appellant ordinarily worked, but where, at the time of the alleged discrimination, she was "wholly or mainly" working. It had, therefore, erred in deciding the question of jurisdiction on where the appellant was ordinarily working.

The question of jurisdiction under the 1975 Act should be remitted to a differently constituted industrial tribunal with a direction to determine the question of jurisdiction on the basis of where the appellant had been wholly or mainly working at the relevant time.

KATE O'HANLON
Barrister

GAZETTE

BIRTHS, MARRIAGES & DEATHS

DEATHS

PLAYFAIR: On 21 March 1999, peacefully at home in London, Sir Edward Playfair KCB, aged 88, much-loved husband of Molly, father of Sarah, Mary and Emma, and grandfather of Tabitha, Leo, Ned, Pia, Sam and Jo. The cremation has taken place. At his request, no memorial service.

LECTURES

National Gallery: Colin Wiggins, "Ingres and the 20th century", 1pm.
Victoria and Albert Museum: Caroline Rimell, "Decorative Ironwork for Houses", 2pm.
National Portrait Gallery: Jonathan Stephenson, "Artist's Technique Series: the mystery of Mr Toms", 1.10pm.

BIRTHDAYS

Mr Mike Atherton, cricketer, 31; Mr Norman Bannister, 66; Sir Roger Bannister, neurologist and former Master of Pembroke College, Oxford, 70; Mr Wasim Bari, former Pakistan cricketer, 51; Mr Bryan Bass, former Headmaster, City of London School, 65; Mr Alan Bleasdale, playwright, 53; Mr Geoffrey Clifton-Brown MP, 46; Mr Barry Cryer, writer and comedian, 64; Mr Glyn Davies, former High Commissioner to Namibia, 57; Professor Patrick Dowling, Vice-Chancellor, Surrey University, 60; Mrs Rosalind Gilmore, former Chairman, Building Societies Commission, and Chief Registrar of Friendly Societies, 62; Mr Peter Godfrey, former senior partner, Ernst and Whinney, 75; Professor Kenneth Gregory, Warden, Goldsmiths' College, London, 61; Sir Geoffrey Leigh, company chairman, 66; Sir David McNea, former Commissioner, the Metropolitan Police, 74; Mr Michael Manser, architect, 70; Mr Andrew

BIRTHDAYS

Miller MP, 50; Lord Morris of Manchester, former MP, 71; Mr Michael Nyman, composer, 55; Professor Timothy Pedley, G.I. Taylor Professor of Fluid Mechanics, Cambridge University, 57; Sir Desmond Pichey, chairman, United Utilities, 64; Mr John Rowe QC, a Recorder of the Crown Court, 65; Miss Cindy Shelley, actress, 39; Mr Oliver Sherwood, racehorse trainer, 44; Sir Ian Todd, consulting surgeon, 78; Sir Edward Warner, former diplomat, 68; Sir Denis Wright, former diplomat, 88.

ANNIVERSARIES

Births: Margaret of Anjou, wife of King Henry VI, 1430; Roger Martin du Gard, novelist and playwright, 1881; Juan Gris, Cubist painter, 1887; Joan Crawford (Lucille Le Sueur), actress, 1904; Donald Malcolm Campbell, speed record holder, 1921.

Deaths: Pedro the Cruel, King of Castile and Leon, killed 1369; Stendhal (Marie Henri Beyle), novelist, 1842.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

The Queen Mother attends Queen Mary's 100th Birthday Celebrations at St James's Palace. The Prince of Wales opens the exhibition "The Art of the Silk Kingdom" at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London SW7; and, as Patron, the British Wheelchair Sports Foundation, attends the launch of the Sporting Chance Appeal at Lancaster House, London SW1. Prince Edward attends a performance of *Dracula* by the Northern Ballet Theatre, at Sadler's Wells Theatre, London EC1. The Princess Royal opens the British Association of Clothing Machinery Manufacturers' 90th Exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham; opens the Cranfield Innovation Centre, Cranfield, Bedfordshire; and, as Patron, International Health Exchange, attends the Annual General Meeting at the Chancellor's Hall, Senate House, London WC1. The Duke of Gloucester visits the Cava Park Partnership, Wrexham, Chwyd, and opens the Wrexham Playes, a youth accommodation and training centre for the visually impaired at the British Museum, London WC1. The Duke of Kent, Colonel-in-Chief, visits the First Battalion Devon and Dorset Regiment on exercises on Salisbury Plain, Wiltshire.

CHANGING OF THE GUARD
The Household Cavalry Mounted Regiment mounts the Queen's Life Guard at Horse Guards, 11am.

ROYAL ENGAGEMENTS

Raoul Dufy, painter and designer, 1953; Sir Leslie Patrick Abercrombie, town planner and architect, 1957; Peter Lorre (Laszlo Löwenstein), actor, 1964; Field Marshal Sir Claude John Auchinleck, 1981; Richard, Baron Beeching, reorganiser of British Rail, 1985.

On this day, the marriage of Catherine of Aragon to King Henry VIII was declared valid by the Pope, although in 1533 he had "married" Anne Boleyn, 1534; the Stamp Act, intended for taxing colonists in America, was passed by Parliament, 1765; Belgium was united with Holland, 1815; the first trams in London began operating in Baywater, 1861; the Woolwich steam ferry was inaugurated in London, 1889; Adolf Hitler became dictator of Germany, 1933; Bangladesh, formerly East Pakistan, proclaimed her independence, 1971.

Today is the Feast Day of St Benedict the Hermit, St Ethelwald the Hermit, St Joseph Oriol, St Turibius of Lima and St Victorian.

WORDS

CHRISTOPHER HAWTREE
sic, adv. and v.

IF THERE are few greater pleasures in life than smiling and affixing [sic] to somebody's ineptitude, nothing is more galling than not understanding why others have done so.

The Latin has a resonance which pales the English thus. It was around before the OED's first example (one of Sweet's

sics") and Ernest Bax's 1889 verb did not take off: "the modern reviewer's taste is not really shocked by half the things he sics".

Absent from the OED is the American usage, to set. As Miles Davis grumbled: "She didn't have to sic these lawyers on me like she did, trying to serve me divorce papers everywhere I went."

The Revengers' Comedy

Hell hath no fury like an author defending her spouse. But the best place for literary revenge is in fiction. By David Lister

When two of Britain's foremost ladies of letters go to war over the honour of a man, it is only fitting that they use the postman as an intermediary. When you live by the pen, you aim to destroy with the pen.

Students of literature need little introduction to the dramatic personae: Victoria Glendinning, prolific biographer, most notably of Swift, Trollope and Vita Sackville-West, and Shirley Conran, author of sex and shopping novel *Lace*, but more pertinently a name associated everywhere but the Glendinning household with the word *Superwoman*, the title of her bestselling lifestyle guide for women juggling housework, careers, children and tricky husbands.

Which brings us to the third party: Kevin O'Sullivan, currently married to Ms Glendinning and former husband of Ms Conran. But, alas, being married to *Superwoman* does not necessarily turn you into Superman. In a recent interview Conran explained why she had failed to mention their marriage in her *Who's Who* entry. It was, she said, because he was a "layabout," and their marriage "a big mistake".

Reading this slur upon her man put Glendinning in a fury. She narrowed her eyes and reached for her pen. Students of 18th century literature could justifiably become excited. Here was the woman who knows more about Britain's greatest satirist Jonathan Swift than anyone alive. What withering metaphor would she use to humiliate her erstwhile rival?

Glendinning could have summoned all the political barbs, the satirical sweep of Swift, flavoured with the poise and style of Sackville-West. Instead, she told Conran that she was guilty of libel and blurted: "If you do it again there will be hell to pay from me, so look out."

Fans of Glendinning's biographies will find this riposte decidedly disappointing. If there is satire it is brilliantly disguised. Perhaps its subtlety is a lesson to all biographers that intense study of your subject does not necessarily endow you with genius. But Glendinning defends her style: "It was like being a schoolgirl writing a mischievous letter."

Glendinning went on: "This is the second time to my knowledge - there may have been more - that you have libelled him. Just how flaky can you get?"

Superwoman was not impressed. She too was spurred to take up her pen, but deemed Glendinning unworthy of a letter. "I wrote back on a postcard and told her that I was not going to be intimidated by her threats," she told a newspaper. "She is obviously more interested in my ex-husband than I am and I wish her good luck with him. She'll need it."

A belated shift towards irony in those last few words, but slightly spoilt by Conran referring to Glendinning with some relish in her interview as "the Hon Victoria G". This falls as a quip because it is precisely what, Glendinning, the daughter of Lord Seabrook, is.



Glendinning: rushed to defend husband Kevin O'Sullivan (inset) UPPA

As for Kevin O'Sullivan, the mysterious character on whom the exchange of letters revolves, there is - as in all well drawn characters in literature - room for disagreement on his motivation and growth. Conran claims the marriage left her in a "financial mess". She justifies her use of language with some linguistic precision: "As soon as we got back from honeymoon he chucked in his job. During the next year he only applied for one other job, hence the use of the word 'layabout'."

The couple married in 1972 and were divorced a couple of years later. Conran recalls: "I came back from a visit to my mother in Canada to find a note on the mantelpiece from Kevin. It said: 'By the time you read this I will be in Moscow. My wedding ring is in the waste-paper basket where it belongs.' Kevin didn't divorce me, he deserted me. We divorced by mutual consent."

By *Superwoman* standards this is small beer. Conran says of her first husband, Habitat founder Sir Terence Conran: "He was a **** about money, and I cannot forgive him for hurting our sons. Divorce is painful

and children don't like it, and sometimes the painful things should just be forgotten, but the pain stays and some of it can just burst out." She adds in the interests of literary complexity that her eight years with him were among the happiest and most satisfying of her life.

In the case of Mr O'Sullivan, Conran is far more precise in her use of language and the contemporary resonances of the words she uses. Take, for example, Mr O'Sullivan's job title. He is said to be a "consultant engineer". Conran, a woman immersed in both the arts and business, is suspicious of the word "consultant". Eager to show that language must break through such opaque and confusing terminology, she describes him as a "salesman".

Of course Shirley Conran is indulging in a popular literary pastime: revenge is increasingly the refuge of a writer scorned. Of course, the most effective way to avenge oneself on a husband, be he a layabout or just a sub-superman, is to denigrate him under cover of fiction.

It is no accident that two characters in the David Lodge novel

Small World, both writers, hold back from consummating their relationship until they have both sworn never to use each other in a future book. When you marry a writer your reputation serves as dowry.

Fay Weldon split up with Ron, her husband of 30 years, when a New Age therapist persuaded him that

'It's great to see two middle-aged ladies going at it. The life force is still there'

the pair were incompatible on astrological grounds. He dropped dead the day after the divorce but lived again none too flatteringly in Weldon's novel *Affliction*.

Philip Roth, after a stormy marriage to actress Claire Bloom, wrote



Conran: described her ex-husband as a 'layabout' Kayte Brinacombe

a much acclaimed novel, *I Married a Communist*, which features a neurotic actress. It could have been worse. Bloom revealed in her own unsparring memoirs that while they were married Roth showed her a typescript of a novel in which a writer called Philip cheated continually on a boring, whinging wife called Claire. She insisted he change the names, which however did not alter the underlying unpleasantness.

Amanda Craig's novel about literary London, *A Vicious Circle*, provided such a hostile portrait of her former boyfriend David Sexton (now literary editor of the *Evening Standard*) that the original publisher backed out of the deal after Sexton threatened legal action.

Few pieces of revenge literature have been so devastating, nor had such an A-list cast, as *Heartburn* by Nora Ephron, in which she wrote a thinly-disguised account of the affair between her ex-husband, Watergate journalist Carl Bernstein, and Margaret (now Baroness) Jay, while

Peter Jay was British ambassador in Washington. She depicts the Jay figure as "an hysteric" with "a neck as long as an arm and a nose as long as a thumb."

Other eyes finding themselves in print have protested through interviews and articles, rather than labour over a fully fledged novel. Among them are the former partners of Ian McEwan (accused of "stealing" Penny Allen's experiences in his fiction), Paul Theroux (who agreed to rewrite the sections of *My Other Life* to disguise his marriage) and Hanif Kureishi (said by Tracey Scofield to have "maliciously" caricatured her as the boring and unattractive spurned wife in his novel *Intimacy*).

Julie Burchill, who has kept almost no detail of her own life from her audience, said yesterday: "I always read revenge literature. It's a scream. And I think the Conran/Glendinning row is a scream. It's great to see two middle-aged ladies going at it. It shows the life force is still there."

Her latest novel *Married Alone*, she says, not autobiographical. "I

was never cheated on in my marriage. I was always the guilty party." She is awaiting without undue trepidation the new book by her first husband, Tony Parsons, which is said to contain references to her: "He can do what he likes. He has written about me before. This book will sink without trace like the others."

Mr O'Sullivan, meanwhile, is leaving it to the women in his life to fight it out between themselves, confining himself to saying: "One of the reasons I divorced Shirley was to stop having to deal with her."

Neither protagonist in this newest outbreak of swinging literary letters was willing to add to their words yesterday. But perhaps the answerphones at both their homes say enough.

Ms Glendinning's had a message from her husband saying that neither Kevin nor Victoria was available. Very much the couple, very together as all their friends attest.

Ms Conran delivers her own asseverative message: "I answer the phone between 6 and 8 in the evenings. I work during the day." Still every inch a *Superwoman*.

We just don't like each other

The pressures of living together are starting to tell. By Cayte Williams

THE STUDENTS have been living together for over six months now, and that old maxim that you don't really know anyone until you share a home with them is proving true.

Arguments over who sorts out the phone bill and who does the washing up carry on as normal and it has led to personality clashes.

Ian is getting fed up with Rosie. "She's so messy, we have to clean up after her all the time. In fact, we live with really dirty girls. They never take the bins out."

But is Ian one of those boys who expects girls to do all the cleaning? "Not at all," he protests. "Rosie's the only one not to have done any tidying up. Everybody helps but she does nothing."

"I don't hate her," he continues, "I just don't like her very much. She's narrow-minded and opinionated."

On a happier note, David reckons that he and Robbie are closer than ever. They were good mates before they moved into this house, but now they're joined at

the hip. "Living here has made me realise how similar we are," he says. We have the same humour and spend hours talking crap to each other.

"We're from similar backgrounds," adds David, "and come from an ethnic minority living in Britain."

David came to England from Hong Kong when he was eight and went to school in Sunderland. "I would get picked on and it affected my self-confidence," he says.

"School kids would do Bruce Lee impressions, make jokes about Chinese takeaways, or take the piss out of the Chinese accent. Even grown men called you names when you walked

down the street. I knew Manchester would be different because I would be mixing with students who have less insecurities for a start. The few comments I've had have been from locals."

David had a row with Leona and Tasha the other day about a TV programme. He says: "I complained that all the questions on *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* were culturally biased, in that if you weren't white and British you couldn't get the answers. But I was just trying to wind them up."

Tasha, whose father is from Sri Lanka, is glad she's living in England. "I've hardly ever come

THIS STUDENT LIFE



SPRING TERM, WEEK 11 AT THE MANCHESTER STUDENT HOUSE

ROBBIE studying Economics

IAN studying Geography

LEONA was studying Maths

ROSIE studying French

across racism here but when I've been abroad I've got loads of hassle," she says. "I went to eastern Germany five years ago with a group of school friends who were white and I got such a shock. We weren't allowed into clubs or restaurants because of my colour. They've got problems there with the neo-Nazis and you could see there was a real ghetto for ethnic minorities."

Tasha's background is Sri Lankan but she went to a "very English" boarding school, Christ's Hospital in Essex. She passed the entrance exam and joined her brother there because her father knew it had a good exam pass rate. "My dad came over to this country to be a part of this country," she says.

So did she feel any cultural difference when she arrived at a "very English" school? "My daddy is Christian," she says, "and religion has a lot to do with upbringing, so no, I didn't at all."

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"School kids would do Bruce Lee impressions, make jokes about Chinese takeaways, or take the piss out of the Chinese accent. Even grown men called you names when you walked

down the street. I knew Manchester would be different because I would be mixing with students who have less insecurities for a start. The few comments I've had have been from locals."

David had a row with Leona and Tasha the other day about a TV programme. He says: "I complained that all the questions on *Who Wants To Be A Millionaire?* were culturally biased, in that if you weren't white and British you couldn't get the answers. But I was just trying to wind them up."

Tasha, whose father is from Sri Lanka, is glad she's living in England. "I've hardly ever come

across racism here but when I've been abroad I've got loads of hassle," she says. "I went to eastern Germany five years ago with a group of school friends who were white and I got such a shock. We weren't allowed into clubs or restaurants because of my colour. They've got problems there with the neo-Nazis and you could see there was a real ghetto for ethnic minorities."

Tasha's background is Sri Lankan but she went to a "very English" boarding school, Christ's Hospital in Essex. She passed the entrance exam and joined her brother there because her father knew it had a good exam pass rate. "My dad came over to this country to be a part of this country," she says.

So did she feel any cultural difference when she arrived at a "very English" school? "My daddy is Christian," she says, "and religion has a lot to do with upbringing, so no, I didn't at all."

David reckons that he and Robbie are closer than ever. They were good mates before they moved into this house, but now they're joined at

THE JOYS OF MODERN LIFE

38. CITY FARMS BY CAROLINE STACEY

THE CITY farm, like the sports personality, is probably the ultimate oxymoron. These urban sanctuaries for farm animals, all sorts of animals, exist to give us deprived inner-city dwellers some of the benefits of the countryside, to make up for all that our environment lacks (you know, mud and more mud and absolutely nothing to do). They are so obviously a Good Thing, so why bother to nominate them as one of the pleasures of living in a metropolis?

For a start, one great thing about a city farm, is that it is not in the country. They are accessible by bus or foot, unlike rural farms where there's no public transport, no way of walking safely along winding lanes, and footpaths are either blocked off, or have snorting bulls wandering across them. On a city farm there are no hazardous aging machinery or barrels of poison.

They are reasonably clean, there are no mangy dogs cruelly tied up, no expanses of ankle deep liquid manure, no need to put on speciality rubber footwear. You can walk straight out of our city farms on to the comfort of pavements without changing shoes.

Above all they have a diversity of livestock to look at. Don't bother heading for open country to show children the kind of farmyard scenes they expect from picture books.



City farms: no fields, no mess

Geraint Lewis

Either there will be no animals in evidence or just one species as far as the eye can see.

Take East Anglia, for example, where monoculture means that fields of sugarbeet or turnips stretch to infinity. Elsewhere there may be chickens, hundreds and thousands of them, but they're hidden from view in battery hen houses. If any are visible it'll be nothing but sheep, sheep, sheep, or row upon row of cows, and that's the lucky ones allowed to live outside. Just as there's nothing but white folk wherever you look, and a homogenised breed of Conservative voter.

My parents live in a part of the country given over to the cultivation of mange touts and garlic. We naively took our two-year-old down there and had to get straight back in the car, cut

across a terrifying dual carriageway and get out on the side of a windswept hill to look at some sheep on the other side of barbed wire. We'd have been better off up the road from home in London where he can see pigs, sheep, chickens, ducks, turkeys and geese wandering around the cobbled farmyard, a cow and her calf, rabbits and as great a variety of people visiting them. For biodiversity, just head for town.

The rustics can pity us our urban existence all they like. Call me a cow of the snotty metropolitan variety, but Hackney city farm provides our family with far more pleasure and interest than their benighted countryside. And it's the only one I know with an Italian café serving toasted focaccia sandwiches in an outbuilding.

Handwritten signature or mark at the bottom of the page.

The illustrator takes the stage

From Roald Dahl's books to *The Hunchback of Notre Dame*, the work of Quentin Blake mixes painting and drama. By Ann Treneman

Quentin Blake is Britain's best-loved and best-known illustrator. Those who have seen his work – and that must include every parent in the country – are jealous when I mention that I am to interview him. “But I’d love to meet him,” they say. I am to report back. I drop his name to my eight-year-old and her eyes grow large at the thought that I will meet the man who drew *The BFG*. For once, she’s genuinely impressed.

So here is my report. Quentin Blake is surprisingly quiet, but with a sense of humour that sneaks up on you. He is shortish, with lively eyes and is thoughtful, eccentric, precise. I’m not sure where he stores his ego in his airy studio overlooking a square in London’s Earl’s Court, but I couldn’t find it anywhere. “Do you really think that I’m the most famous illustrator in Britain?” he asks when I mention this. He continues: “Well, I don’t know. People say things like that but it’s a kind of fact that is hard to take in. You know it’s always a surprise when you see someone reading your book.”

If that is the case, he must live a life of perpetual surprise. What a lot of raised eyebrows that would be to draw. He has illustrated some 200 books, including all of Roald Dahl’s, as well as his own, such as *Mr Magnolia*. He illustrates the odd book for grown-ups, too, and has just finished *The Hunchback of Notre Dame* for the Folio Society. The Word, the London Festival of Literature, has begun this week and for this he has drawn the Great Word Map, a sort of ink-stained and splodged A to Z. The festival has chosen 33 novels to symbolise 33 parts of London and Blake has done a drawing for each one. The books sit in a crate at the side of his studio. He likes to read, and so already knew most of them but a few, he admits, he got through “very fast”. We look at the roughs. “Editors are always saying that the roughs are always better,” he says sometimes they actually use them instead of the finished ones. It is not long before I notice that we are not alone in his studio. Propped up against the wall on his slanted desk, which is littered with jars holding hundreds of pencils and pens, is a man. Or should I say, a character. Like most of Blake’s creations, he is a study in motion, though his progress must be hampered slightly by the fact he is wearing slippers. He is angular, with too-big yellow trousers and the pointiest nose. He looks like the quintessential Quentin Blake character, but I don’t recognise him from the books. “Oh him,” says Blake. “It’s nobody. He’s just somebody who lives in that drawing.”

He is part of what Blake calls his “reputary company”. He describes illustrating as a mixture of painting and theatre, but his heart is really with the latter. “Most people think illustration is like a version of painting but, of course, a lot of contemporary painting hasn’t got that narrative element at all. It’s been purged of that,” he talks about painters like Tiepolo and Tintoretto, whose works told stories and were full of drama. “What would they do now? They’d probably be in the movies, wouldn’t they? You’d need that to get that sweep, those dramatic moments. Illustration now is probably a rather small version of that narrative theatre.”



Blake: “It’s always a surprise when you see somebody reading one of your books”; below, his version of the Caretaker, the Naked Civil Servant and Sherlock Holmes

John Voss

He rarely draws a picture without a person in it. “Yes that’s true. I mean, animals count as people, don’t they? Yes. I think so. Animals are people too.” He returns to his comparison with the theatre. Some people like scenery, others a bare stage with props. Quentin Blake likes the latter. His work is full of props – wonky stools and skew-whiff pans – but rarely does he paint the scenery. It helps create the Polaroid effect, that feeling of capturing a moment. This is a quality he admires in painters, too. “I like Goya very much, because one of the things

you get there is this kind of instant quality, although they look as though they are going to be there forever. I don’t know how he does that.” He mentions Picasso and Degas. “I think Degas has come back having been unfashionable, rather in the way Dickens came back. People are coming to realise that you can do it like that. He was a wonderful draughtsman, absolutely wonderful. You just love the way he does the line. You can feel it. Have you seen the ones of the brothels? That is a kind of illustration style he had. He did his paintings, but then he did these little pictures. They are more little instant, little moments. They are improvised.”

Quentin Blake is 66 now, and has been drawing ever since he can remember. He grew up in south London. His father was a civil servant, his mother a housewife. At 14, he started sending cartoons to *Punch*. He cringes to think of it now. “They really were lacking in taste.” This went on for two years. How many? “I seem to remember it was about 70,” he says. “Then I sent them a plaintive note asking to come and see them.”

He went up to the *Punch* offices which, he says, in those days were rather grand, like a London club or something. He was put in waiting-room, next to a large woman, and given a copy of *The New Yorker*, which he thoroughly enjoyed. Then he sat, and sat, and sat. “After quite a long time, the secretary appeared and asked what I was doing there. They had thought I was the woman’s nephew. And by then it was too late to see the art director! But I did go back. And then he bought two of my drawings. They weren’t that big. Tiny, really.”

At Cambridge, he studied English but, before becoming a teacher, he decided to give his drawing a go. He went to Chelsea Art School part-time. It was £7 a term. He did life-drawing. “I was in a group called the Odds and Sods, not officially, but that is what we were. A collection of grey-haired ladies, immigrants and, well, me.” It sounds like a Quentin Blake drawing to me. “Then I used to go home and draw from memory and imagination. Which I’ve been doing ever since, actually.”

He and Roald Dahl were teamed up because they had the same publisher. Quentin Blake likes illustrating because of the challenge of drawing as others write, but Dahl was intimidating. “To begin with, I can remember thinking that he is just so famous. A power. I thought he’s going to change things.” In fact, sometimes it was the opposite. The original *BFG* wore an apron and boots. Dahl didn’t like the look of that, though that is what he wrote, and gave him a waistcoat instead. Then there were the feet. “One day, a rather shapeless brown-paper parcel arrived, and in it was the big sandal,” says Blake. “It was one of Dahl’s. It was Norwegian. And he said: ‘What about this?’” Now that is a footnote. Illustrators never see why he should. If he has a hobby, it is France, and he can draw there as well. He says that characters are something that happen when you draw. He sometimes contorts in sympathy as he is creating them, and makes faces to match theirs. So what’s next? He has an idea for a new book, but after that isn’t sure. “I always think that I won’t have any more ideas,” he says. But, I say, you’ve had millions of ideas. “I know, but I can’t think that I am going to have any more. You do one and then you really cannot believe that you are going to have another.”

Further information on The Word Literary Festival: 0171-971 0408 and at www.theword.org.uk

From melodrama to poetry, melancholy to ecstasy

THOUGH BELLES-LETTRES are hardly his style, Harrison Birtwistle has a talent for choosing the words, whether taken from *The Greek Anthology* or David Harless’s poetry, that prove impeccably right for his uniquely created world.

Both these sources featured in the first concert of the Nash Ensemble’s 1999 20th-century music series two weeks ago. The ensemble played Birtwistle’s classic 1969 Cantata, which sets fragments by Sappho, and gave the world premiere of

The Woman and the Hare, a striking melodrama that overcame the problems inherent in the genre by a skilful juxtaposition of spoken and song material, performed by reciter Julia Watson and soprano Claron McKadden.

The striking feature was the identity of both pieces shared. The textural juxtapositions and dissonances of the Cantata were not just some identikit formula for 1960s avant-gardism, but an original approach to the setting of text, renewed

in the more recent work to a novel stage evolution. Birtwistle’s arrangements of Machaut and Ockeghem motets set the scene; and there were sharply focused accounts of his *Duets for Stravinsky* and

Stravinsky’s *Soldier’s Tale* suite. The evening’s other premiere was of Colin Matthews’s arrangement of Debussy’s *Trois poèmes de Stéphane Mallarmé*, tailored in ensemble to match the *Trois poèmes* by Ravel, a Nash Ensemble standard. Perfectly tailored to their role, they look set to become a significant addition to the ensemble’s dazzling repertoire.

The poet meets the chattering class

I’M HALF-SKIPPING, half-running through the streets of Covent Garden towards the Poetry Café. It’s 2.25pm. Just five minutes to go before the three-hour-long Poetry Masterclass with Wole Soyinka, the Nobel Prize-winning poet and dramatist from Nigeria. I slow to a fast walk as I approach the door, not wishing to look too ridiculous.

“Poetry masterclass?” asks the woman holding the door and looking a little nervily, up and down the street. I nod and step inside. “Drink?” says the woman at the bar, hurrying towards me. Could there be time? She brings me a cappuccino. Do I look like that sort of person? I glance around at the other tables as I burn my lips. There are maybe 10 of us in here. The mature man next to me is talking to his young girlfriend. “Or we could do something cultural,” he says. “You can walk to three parks from here.” Suddenly, he gets up. “Aren’t you going to the masterclass?” I ask him, feeling a little hurt on Wole Soyinka’s behalf. “I wish I

could,” he says, walking away. I glance at my watch – 2.40pm. Then down at the inscription beneath the glass on the café table: “Today there is a wide measure of agreement – that the stream of knowledge is heading towards a non-mechanical reality; the universe begins to look more like a great thought than a great machine.”

A few more people drift in, singly. Suddenly, the girl on the door makes an announcement: he’s on his way. He’s in a taxi now! Everyone gets up and goes downstairs – we’re about 12 now – where chairs get arranged in a rough circle. I plump for a big old grey armchair that I haven’t seen since I last visited my Uncle Ronald in 1974. The Chinese man next to me is on an upright chair. I have to look up to

him to talk. He tells me his name, twice. Then, at my request, he writes it down: Liu Hongbin. I tell him mine. We talk about poetry masterclasses. Has he been to one? Does he know what goes on? No. Nor do I. And how much longer before things get going, anyway?

Suddenly, a black writer in a gorgeous ochre turban drops a leaflet into my lap. “Welcome to the first Writers’ Hotspot newsletter!” the front page reads. “Are you a published poet?” I ask Liu Hongbin, looking up. “Blake Morrison published his first poems in English, in *The Independent* on Sunday, nine years ago.” It’s just coming up to 3 o’clock. Everyone’s making friends. Suddenly, there’s a bit of a kerfuffle on the stairs. “He’s here!” shouts the Poetry Café publicist, almost punching the air. “I’m so so sorry about the delay,” says Wole Soyinka, with winning gravity. He has a slim folder of poems in one hand, a glass of white wine in the other. His hair forms a kind of ring



Wole Soyinka

of white candycross around his face. His white beard points forward tuftly. We all introduce ourselves: the bright-eyed, eager, pugnacious editor of African writing; the rather wan and flyblown woman who says: “I mess around really. I’m a dentist”; and the critic from Korea with the mac over his knee, he of the severe, downturned mouth, who tells Mr Soyinka that he’s here to get an answer about some invitation to a writers’ congress in Seoul. Mr Soyinka seems none-too-pleased by that.

Then Mr Soyinka tells us the really big news. “I must say, right from the start, that I am here under false pretences. I was not aware until last night – I arrived at eight o’clock, straight from Nigeria – that this masterclass was to take place. I thought I had refused to do it. I feel more at ease in theatre workshops. I don’t much like talking about my work. I have made no preparations... Still, things shouldn’t be too bad. We can talk more informally perhaps.”

A little of what you fancy

Why join the queues? Try two small shows at the National Gallery: Gentileschi and Van Der Weyden. By Tom Lubbock

The blockbuster problem. It's not just the crowds. It's the fact that the crowds can only be pulled by offering many more pictures than any viewer could possibly look at within the space of single visit, even if the exhibition was entirely deserted. If you think about it, the crowds actually provide a convenient diversion from this fact. They mask one impossibility (excess of art) with another (excess of viewers). The crush of people, making much of the show invisible, disguises the fact that it would be unviewable anyway. Why call it a problem? It works out very well.

And the smaller, fully viewable show, the one with say 10 or 20 pictures? It's pretty much the ideal thing. I would have thought. Ideal, I mean, for the general viewer. Because the sharpest irony of blockbusters is that their real beneficiaries aren't the public crowds at all, but rather the scholars, the art-historians – the people who genuinely need to see all those Monets or Bonnards altogether, and who will go keep returning, out of hours, to do so.

On the other hand, to say "here's a show where you can see, and really see, six extremely good paintings", however good advice, is never going to get feet moving in large numbers. Just as well, I suppose. But if six extremely good paintings is your idea of fun, try the small Orazio Gentileschi exhibition at the National Gallery.

Orazio (that's to say, Horace) Gentileschi. It's not a household name. Italian painter, 1563-1639. He was Artemisia's father, and she's now the more famous, being widely rated as the top woman European painter of all time. Orazio was the friend and close follower of Caravaggio (the lent Caravaggio a set of wings used for doing angels and cupids). Late in life, he left Italy to spend his sixties and seventies in England, working for the court of Charles I. The dozen pictures here, assembled from Dublin, Birmingham, Hampton Court, Bilbao and Madrid, are partly from those years. He is a terrifically interesting artist. He's a great painter of physical awkwardness. That may sound like dubious

Orazio Gentileschi is terrifically interesting – a great painter of physical awkwardness

to give the stories a kind of realism. It's not a realism like Caravaggio's, where saints are represented as horny-handed sons and daughters of toil. Gentileschi's people are, relatively, ladies and gents. His realism is not to do with social class so much as with the nature of events. The way he arranges bodies in a picture is a way of insisting that great moments of sacred history were not enacted with decisive gestures in elegant and well-blocked tableaux. They happened awkwardly. His awkwardness is judged.

Look at the first scene in the show, *David Slaying Goliath* (1605-8). The fallen giant and the little man wielding the giant's huge sword are crammed inside the picture frame as if inside a box. See how the tip of the blade and the tip of David's pinky precisely touch the picture's edge, and the giant's raised hand is just short of it, and his foot just overlaps – very difficult, one feels, to swing that unwieldy weapon in this confined space. There's bodily confusion, too. There's a non-specific bit of flesh that's probably the giant's elbow, but might well be his knee. His other knee seems to merge into David. And there's an odd, discordant echo-cum-jump in the way that Goliath's defensive left-hand

gesture is repeated exactly, small-scale, in David's own triumphant left-hand gesture. The general effect is to turn a heroic victory into one of those wrestling bouts where you're unsure which limbs are whose.

The next picture is another cracker, utterly bizarre. *The Rest on the Flight into Egypt* (c 1615-20): I suppose one should resist the temptation to call it "surreal", but the temptation is certainly strong. Alternatively, one might speculate that Gentileschi was making propaganda for an obscure donkey cult. It is the donkey's head that presides over this scene. The holy family lie below the picture's halfway mark. Behind them, flat across the picture, runs a stretch of crumbling plastered wall. Behind that, above them, central, enormous, the donkey's profile pokes out – quasi-framed by the broken brickwork, isolated against the clouds. The make is god.

What is going on? I think nobody has a clue. The show's small catalogue doesn't acknowledge how strange this image is, let alone explain it. There is a possible echo between the donkey's head poking from behind the wall, and the Virgin Mary's breast – she is sucking Jesus – peeping out (in the same direction) from her dress, but I'm not sure what the implied simile would be.

All one can say is that a lop-sided sense of significance is another aspect of Gentileschi's awkwardness. As, for instance, in *Lot and his Daughters* (1629). Here, a disproportionate amount of attention is given to a beautifully rendered vine plant. It commands about a third of the picture surface. You may say that this is the vine that made the wine with which the girls got Lot drunk so that they could have sex with him (in order to repeople the land after the destruction of Sodom and Gomorrah). But put like that, you can see that the vine is not the obvious point of emphasis in this narrative. Perhaps it's another, purely pictorial analogy, the twining vine figuring the tenderly intertwined limbs of the sleeping Lot and daughter, with some more clever limb echoes and confusions.

Meanwhile, in *Joseph and Potiphar's Wife* (1630-2), what would normally be a scene of sudden action, a man escaping a woman's pounce, is converted into dream-



Gentileschi's 'David and Goliath'

National Gallery of Ireland

like slow-motion. There's a fantastically painted spread of hanging scarlet drapery, and an oddly significant lump of pillow, and Joseph striding from the room, away from the viewer, is done with cunning spatial ambiguity, so his body seems to be at several distances. I hope this is recommendation enough. The show is free, and when I saw it, there weren't many there.

The National Gallery has another, even smaller exhibition, of pictures by that exquisite old Flemish master, Rogier van der Weyden, one of the first generation of oil

painters. The focus of the show is the reuniting of the National's own *Magdalene Reading* with two other fragments of the altarpiece to which it originally belonged. But the real revelation for me was the amazing quality of the photo-reproduction.

One of the two surviving bits, on loan from Lisbon, actually fits on to the *Magdalene* fragment, and to demonstrate this, the show has made actual-size photos of each, stuck them on actual-width board, and re-assembled them, beside their originals. Now I don't say that photo and painting are

indistinguishable. Side by side, you can see the difference clearly enough, chiefly in relative luminosity. But the difference isn't that large. The colour is extraordinarily close. I'm not sure, with just the photo and no tip-off, how long it would have taken me to spot the truth. And this of course suggests a simple answer to the over-crowded blockbuster. Three or four of everything.

National Gallery, London WC2 (0171-747 2883); daily, free. Gentileschi to 23 May; Van der Weyden to 4 Jul

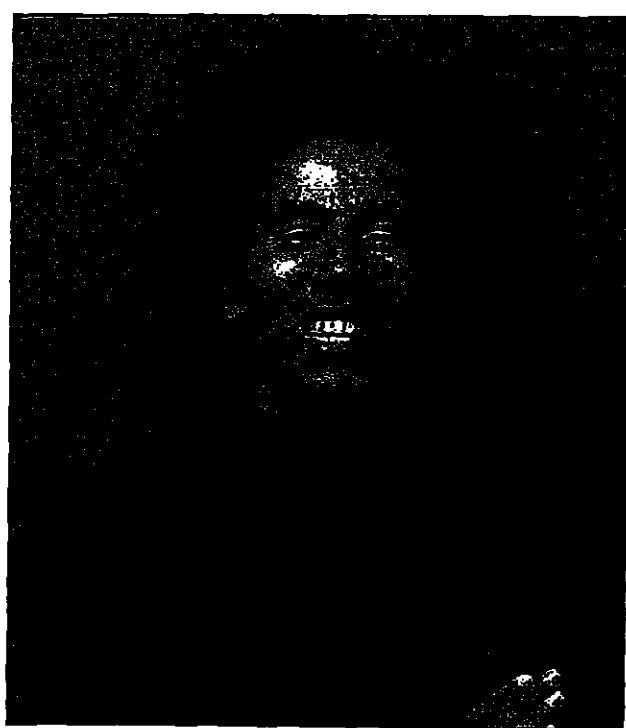
The man who shot Bob Marley

The hair. That smile. Bob Marley is one of the great icons. But Dennis Morris has captured the reggae star's essence. By Kate Mikhail

OFTEN IT'S only in retrospect that life becomes clear. Look back through the eye of a camera and, suddenly, gaunt cheeks, anxious frowns and dejected body language are all there to be read. When photographer Dennis Morris lined up his pictorial biography of Bob Marley, which ran from 1973 to the musician's death in 1981, he was struck by what the images revealed.

"I saw where it was all going wrong. I suddenly realised how he was slowly deteriorating... that he was dying." Morris was only 14 years old when the two first met. He had bunked off school to hover outside London's Speakeasy club, camera in hand, to snap Marley as he arrived for a sound check. That evening, after the show, he went home, packed a bag and joined the band on tour. "My age didn't mean anything to Marley because where he was coming from in Trench Town, kids of 10 had guns." The photographer and musician felt an immediate empathy; neither had grown up with their fathers, both were lucky enough to have mentors at a young age to encourage them in their respective passions, and both were outsiders. Morris was the kid at school who hated football and who, from the age of eight, would rather go off on his own to photograph the streets of Hackney. Marley was also a loner, a child of mixed parentage growing up in Trench Town. But, as Morris stresses, this was a man who "knew he was on a mission". He was out to break down barriers and confront intolerance through his actions and through his rebel music.

Morris's first photographs of Bob taken at the Speakeasy in 1973 are grainy and dimly lit – just one spot of light catches the instantly recognisable fea-



Bob Marley seen through the lens of Dennis Morris

tures. The expression on Marley's face is intense, such was his total immersion when on stage. "He could have been praying, he could have been hit by a bullet, he could even been laughing," says Morris, describing his favourite image of this time.

"Seeing him live, he expressed himself in all those ways: in his face, his movements, his eyes, everything." Other photographs in Morris's reportage-style collection capture Marley backstage, on the tour bus, relaxing in a nightclub and at home in Hope Road, Kingston, Jamaica. They are all intimate images but they focus on the public Bob Marley. There are no shots of him and his wife Rita, who sang backing vocals as part of

the I Threes, or any of his 11 children, whom he had with eight different women.

One day Marley turned to Morris and said, "Yeah, let me show you how a man can be free." The camera clicked and Marley is frozen leaping around grinning, and shaking and pulling his dreadlocks this way and that, all the while saying, "Bars cannot hold me, force cannot control me, I-man a rebel." And what if Bob Marley was in this gallery right now? Morris looks shocked by the idea, as if the room wouldn't be big enough to contain him.

"He wasn't a very tall man, but he was a giant of a man. He had immense presence, and the beauty was that it spread on to you. You had to really get your act together." In several of the

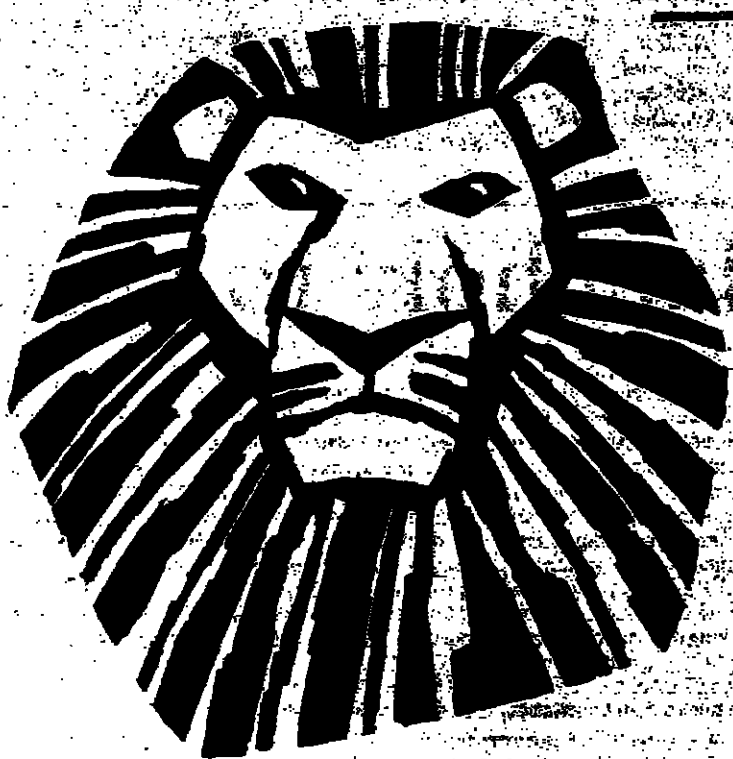
later photographs, Marley's open-toed sandals reveal a heavily bandaged toe, poignant in hindsight as it was this football injury which refused to heal and eventually led to his death from cancer.

"I think when he died, half of Jamaica suffered," says Morris. "He fed a lot of people emotionally, financially. He put Jamaica on the map." Marley was like a priest, recalls Morris. People would go to him with their problems and he would give them an answer, and before he went on stage he was "almost like a shaman, drawing inspiration before they walk out to face the masses and give the message. Then he'd walk on stage and the place would light up." But the 1976 attempt on his life in the lead-up to the Jamaican elections, together with his illness, visibly affected him, and Morris's photographs of this time show him reflective and drawn-looking. But at the same time he was pleased that he had achieved his aim: he had given Rastafarianism respectability and spread his message of freedom and tolerance.

"The other day I went to Dalston to get my hair cut," says Morris, "and my hairdresser said, 'I know Bob Marley. I remember him well. I remember in Jamaica we used to see him playing on the street with his guitar and we used to laugh and say "Look at the old fool. The fool thinks he going to be a star".' Only Bob Marley knew Bob Marley was going to be a star."

'Bob Marley, A Rebel Life', presented by Epsom and Proud Galleries, 5 Buckingham Street, London WC2 (0171-839 4942), to 29 April. The accompanying book 'Bob Marley, A Rebel Life' is published by Plexus, £14.99

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HEALTH

The smell good factor

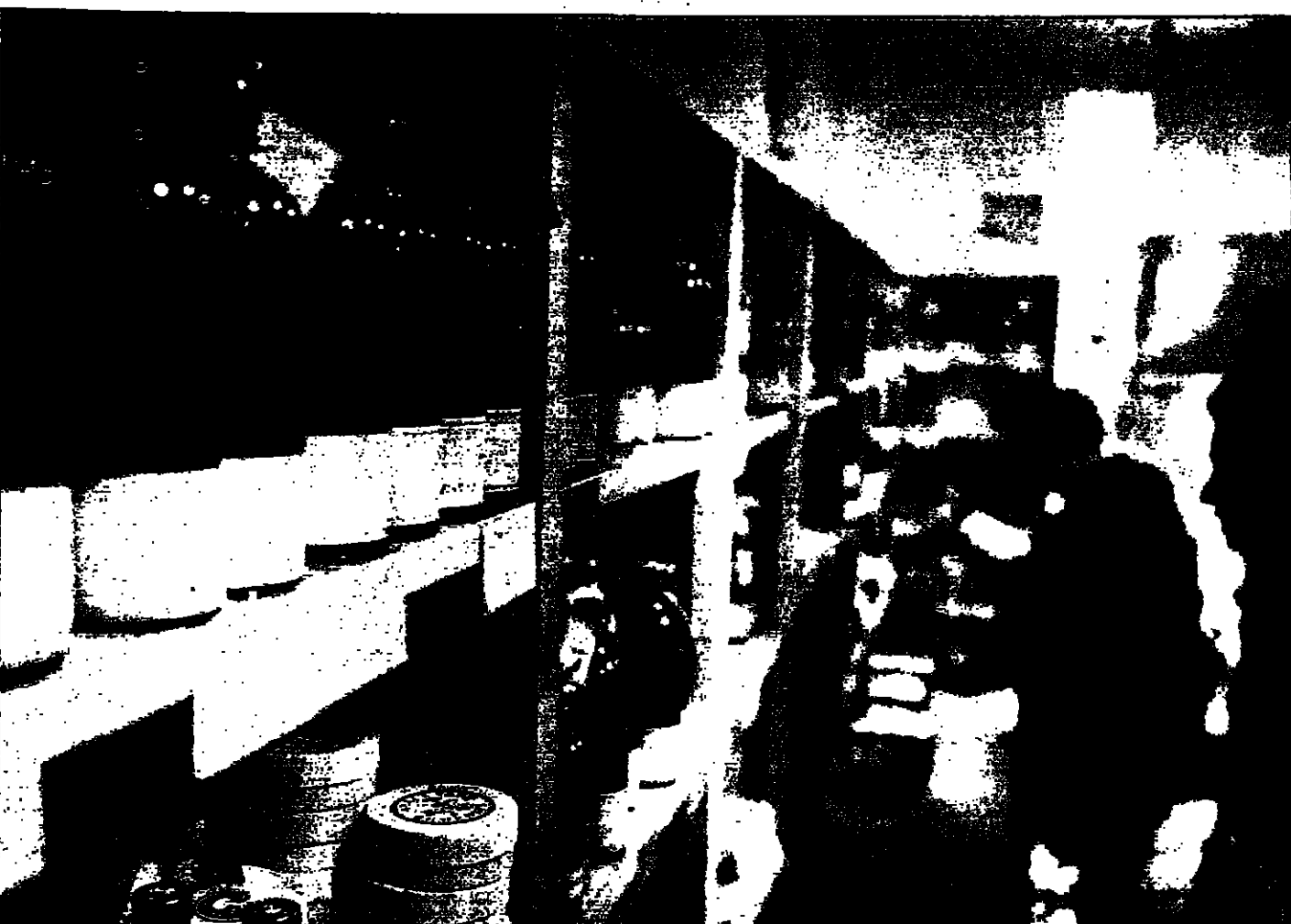
Its powers and healing properties have been tried and tested; the French and Germans swear by it. But in Britain, aromatherapy is still not taken seriously. By Roger Dobson

When the first astronauts travelled into space, state-of-the-art technology was crammed into almost every square inch of their craft. There were monitors for their hearts, gauges for blood pressure, tests for bone density, and meters for measuring capacity. There were also games designed to prevent boredom, exercises and tasks to relieve stress, and pictures, music and sounds from home to combat depression.

But it soon became clear that one thing had been overlooked. There was nothing pleasant for the crews to smell in the sterile, hi-tech spacecraft. So acute did the problem become that early astronauts took to keeping their lemon- and lilac-scented hand-wipes for sniffing during leisure times.

As a result, astronauts on later missions were provided with sensory packs giving them a choice of well-known fragrances, as well as a few favourite smells from back home.

The power of the sense of smell has been known for thousands of years, but only now is evidence emerging that aromas, particularly those extracted from plants, are not only a psychological pick-me-up, but can ease some physiological problems, too.



Choose your aroma: many essential oils contain chemical compounds which have a curative effect on the body Tom Craig

Conditions as diverse as epilepsy and burn injuries, herpes and respiratory infections have now been successfully treated using clinical forms of aromatherapy.

In Britain, until now, it has been traditionally regarded as a kind of alternative massage therapy, good for toning the skin perhaps, but not used at all in treating illness and disease. In France and Germany, however, it's Europe's fastest-growing alternative therapy, and has evolved as part of medicine.

French doctor Rene-Maurice Gattefosse is now credited with being the father of modern aromatherapy, largely as a result of his seminal, three-volume work on the subject, which was published almost exactly 60 years ago.

"His theories put aromatherapy squarely on the basis of modern scientific thought and experimentation. He introduced the word aromatherapy and created the discipline of therapeutic application of essential oils," says Dr Kurt Schnaubelt, author of *Medical Aromatherapy*.

Clinical aromatherapy uses essential oils extracted from herbs, flowers, trees and fruits. These are the oils that give the aroma to the plant, but they also contain hundreds of complex chemical compounds, including aldehydes, terpenes, alcohols, esters and ketones, many of which are known to have a healing effect on the body. Whether massaged into the skin, consumed internally, or simply inhaled, the theory of aromatherapy is that these chemicals interact with the body.

"Because the molecules of essential oils are so minute, they penetrate human skin and enter the

bloodstream and organs. Scientists have found that the same oils gather in the same parts of the body time and time again," says aromatherapist, Penny Rich.

As proof of the power of plants, aromatherapists are quick to point out that biochemists have been consistently finding nature to find therapeutic compounds, from aspirin to St John's wort for depression.

Just how the oils work remains unclear. In some cases, the chemicals in them may act at a local level, as with lavender oil for burns and acne, or they may work through the pleasant smell having an effect on

the brain and affecting the working of the immune system.

"Essential oils stimulate the sense of smell, which in turn affects the areas of the brain known as the limbic system. The link between emotions, fear, love, excitement, anger, and the release of body chemicals is well-established. Aromatherapy, through its impact on the limbic system, can stimulate the release of neurochemicals, as well as hormones, in the body," says Barbara Rowlands, author of *The Which? Guide to Complementary Medicine*.

Although the power of essential

oils has been known for some time - the Egyptians were using myrrh and cedarwood for embalming 4,500 years ago - it's only since the arrival of biochemistry that the individual qualities and importance of chemicals found in plants has been truly realised.

At a psychological level, it's now known that pleasant aromas can ease pain and help with insomnia and depression, and aromatherapy is increasingly being used by nurses working with patients suffering from chronic conditions.

Some oils, including Spanish oregano and rosemary, have been

used to treat bacterial infections, while a trial involving oil from the tea tree showed it to be effective against MRSA, which is a potentially lethal bug that is most commonly picked up in hospitals.

A study in California has found that thyme oil was useful in treating migraine, and in France, patients with cardiac disease who were given essential oils reduced the incidence of further attacks. In a hospital-based project in Birmingham, massage and aromatherapy oils have been used to treat epilepsy, and results showed that one third of patients were seizure-free after a year. Trials have also shown that peppermint is useful in the treatment of shingles, while lavender oil helps deal with cold sores.

AROMATHERAPY TREATMENTS

■ **Upper Respiratory Tract Infections:** Thyme rubbed onto the skin provides forceful antiseptic action, while three to 10 drops of Bay oil applied to the lymph nodes fights off infection.

■ **Acne:** Peppermint oil capsules stimulate elimination of toxins from the liver, while lavender applied to the affected areas stimulates new tissue growth.

■ **Flu:** German camomile taken during the acute stages detoxifies metabolic wastes from pathogenic micro-organisms.

■ **Earache:** Two drops of

Eucalyptus oil on a cotton swab inserted gently into the ear. Lavender massaged into the surrounding area may also help.

■ **Stretch Marks:** Flax seed and hazel nut oils can be used for existing marks, while a blend of eucalyptus and cypress in hazel nut oil massaged into the skin during pregnancy can be used to prevent the characteristic stretchy marks and discoloration.

■ **Conjunctivitis:** Add three to five drops of fresh lemon juice to a three ounce bottle of myrtle

water and spray into eye every hour.

■ **Insomnia:** Three drops of angelica massaged into the forehead.

■ **Nausea:** One or two drops of tarragon, rosemary and marjoram in water.

From *'Medical Aromatherapy'* by Kurt Schnaubelt, published this week and available from Airight Books, £13.99. Further reading: *The Which? Guide to Complementary Medicine*, £9.99

We shouldn't be gambling with the NHS

HEALTH CHECK



JEREMY LAURANCE

ROLL UP roll up - buy a lottery ticket and save a life. It could, after all, be you with a lump in your breast or a shadow on your lung - and maybe, just maybe, the time will come when you need a body scan and a course of radiotherapy.

The passing of a watershed is sometimes greeted with fanfares and headlines, and at other times goes almost unnoticed. Last week's Government announcement of an extra £150m funding for cancer services from the National Lottery could be just such a watershed. But it may be years before we know.

Frank Dobson, the health secretary, was enthusiastic. The money, to be paid over three years, would be "the biggest ever bonus the country has given to cancer services", he said. "It will help us deliver modern and dependable cancer services for the 21st century, saving thousands of lives with better prevention, detection and treatment."

So the product of gambling, itself a known health hazard, is to be used in an act of charity to the NHS to buy scanners, x-ray machines and "vital new cancer-killing treatments". It will come from the "New Opportunities fund", a sixth good cause Labour added to the lottery's original five shortly after it came to power.

is no question of state spending being eroded and they cite the £21bn promised over the next three years as evidence of their good intentions.

We should treat these pledges with a healthy scepticism. The British Medical Association observed that there were advantages to using a central pot - the lottery - to build on local fund-raising efforts, because it could even out inequities across the country. But it added that it was "sad" and "disappointing" that the Government was relying on lottery money to fund what should be regarded as "mainstream core services".

Hospital managers are reluctant to accept charity for core services

Who could complain about that? As recent figures have shown, Britain lags behind most of Europe on cancer treatments and many hospital departments are in urgent need of new equipment. Medical organisations found themselves backed into a corner. Where was the mileage, in PR terms, in protesting about extra cash for cancer?

Clearly there is a place for charity in the health arena. Hospitals have their flower days, their leagues of friends, and their fund-raising events. The fear here is that the Government has crossed a boundary by ditching the principle that lottery money should never be used to subsidise state spending.

A founding principle of the National Lottery, endorsed by Labour in opposition, was that of "additionality" - that money should go only to schemes additional to those funded by the Government. Since scanners and x-ray machines are essential to the work of cancer departments but have also been bought for hospitals by charities, the definition of what is "additional" has been conveniently muddled.

Ministers deny they are exploiting this confusion and say they are merely building on local fund-raising efforts. There

The NHS Confederation, representing hospital managers, sounded a similar warning. It did not wish to look a gift horse in the mouth but it was reluctant to accept charity for core services that ought to be provided by the taxpayer.

This, however, is only the beginning. When the lottery started in 1996, there were five good causes: charities, the millennium, the arts, heritage and sport. Each received 20 per cent of the pot.

The sixth good cause, the New Opportunities Fund, added in 1997 to support government-chosen projects, currently takes 13.3 per cent of the pot rising to 20 per cent next October. From 2001, however, when lottery funding of millennium projects will end, its share will rise to one third of all good cause money - about £500m a year.

That will buy rather more than a few cups of tea for volunteer workers at the local hospice and it is hard to believe that Gordon Brown or his successor at the Treasury will make his dispensations without regard to it.

But how did I get herpes?

We associate genital viruses with infidelity. It's not always that simple. By Emma Haughton

FOUR YEARS into a steady relationship, Simon suddenly developed painful and ugly sores all over his genitals. His GP was booked up for several days ahead and, since he was running a high fever, he went to casualty. A nurse took one look, and referred him to a genitourinary clinic, saying he had a bad case of genital herpes.

"It was a bolt from the blue," says Simon. "Alison was my only sexual partner, and I was sure she'd been faithful." Indeed, when they both attended the clinic, Alison's vaginal swab tested negative.

Alison was as shocked as Simon. Although she'd had a number of sexual partners, there was no suspicion that any of them had herpes, and she was appalled to discover that she had probably unwittingly passed it on. "I felt really terrible. Simon was quite ill with it, and although the clinic said I hadn't got herpes, I knew I must have given it to him. They implied he'd picked it up from someone else, but I just knew that wasn't true."

Having lingered in the shad-

ow of Aids for over a decade, genital herpes recently regained the limelight when UK and US studies suggested its prevalence was much higher than previously assumed. As many as one in five people could be infected with herpes simplex virus type two (HSV-2), responsible for the more virulent form of genital herpes, although up to 80 per cent may be unaware they have it. Genital herpes is also caused by the milder HSV-1, while this type usually causes cold sores around the mouth, it can infect the genitals through oral sex.

Official reports put the number of new UK cases at around 15,000 a year. "It's very likely there are many more potentially infectious cases presenting less typically," says Dr Derek Timmins, consultant in genitourinary medicine at the Royal Liverpool Hospital, and a member of the Herpes Simplex Advisory Panel.

Herpes is a complex and mysterious disease, which transmits in ways doctors are only now beginning to understand. While it was always as-

sumed the virus could only pass on via active sores, recent research uncovered evidence of "silent shedding", where herpes transmits without the presence of blisters; using condoms just during active episodes may still leave partners at risk.

And not everyone has obvious skin lesions; some only experience occasional redness

or tingling in the affected area, but can still infect others through oral or penetrative sex. To complicate matters further, the virus can hibernate in the body for years before showing itself, often making it impossible to tell when or from whom you caught it.

The good news is that herpes, while incurable, is generally a mild and benign condition; only an unfortunate few experience recurrent and debilitating episodes, which can be as frequent as every three weeks. No one is sure what causes herpes symptoms to reappear, but triggers include stress, anxiety, fatigue, menstruation and infections like colds and flu. In most cases, however, the first appearance is the worst, and for many it is the last.

However, herpes can occasionally be dangerous for young babies, causing life-threatening encephalitis or brain-swelling. For reasons as yet unclear, neonatal herpes affects more babies in the US than in the UK, where the incidence is just two in 100,000.

"The biggest risk is to young babies in the first 6-12 months of life whose mother is infected with herpes for the first time at or around delivery," says Timmins. "The baby can be infected and its developing immune system is unable to cope. Babies can become ill, even die, if the condition is not recognised and treated promptly."

There are promising signs of

a vaccine, and acyclovir and the newer antiviral drugs can shorten the duration and severity of attacks, and even suppress recurrence. But for the majority of people the emotional repercussions of the disease are far worse than the physical. With herpes classed as a sexually transmitted disease, reactions to diagnosis include depression, anxiety, guilt, shame and fear of rejection.

"Unfortunately misunderstandings about the way it's passed on can cause a lot of tension in relationships," says Marian Nicholson, director of support group Herpes Virus Association. "You can get genital herpes from facial sores, but doctors often imply that partners have been unfaithful."

Two years down the line, Alison and Simon are happily married with children. "Although it was awful at the time, it's not really changed our lives," says Simon, who has not had a recurrence. "We don't think about it now."

The Herpes Virus Association helpline is 0171-609 9061

Tracking down daddy

I WOULD like to arrange a DNA test to discover who is the father of my son. Can this be done without going through my GP?

You can arrange this directly through a commercial laboratory, without the involvement of your doctor. Alternatively, a solicitor could arrange it on your behalf. You must have the co-operation of the presumed father, who will need to provide a blood sample, and your son will have to provide a sample of blood. If you, the mother, also give a sample, the test is simpler to perform. The tests will cost £360-£475, depending on the number of people tested. Contact Cellmark Diagnostics (01235 528609) for full details.

I GET a terrible pain in the sole of my foot the first time I put my foot to the ground each morning. The pain gradually wanes as I begin to walk, but I am left with an ache, punctuated by a sharp stabbing pain if I walk too far. I have had this for months.

You have plantar fasciitis, an inflammation of the tissues of the arch of the foot where they attach themselves to the front of the heel bone. An X-ray might well show a small spur of bone - a heel spur - at the site of your

A QUESTION OF HEALTH



DR FRED KAVALIER

pain. There are three possible ways of relieving this. First, wear a foam pad over the tender spot. Anti-inflammatory painkillers, such as ibuprofen, taken regularly for a couple of weeks, will help both the pain and the underlying inflammation. As a last resort, it is possible to have an injection of local anaesthetic and steroid through the sole of the foot. A combination of these measures usually solves the problem.

IS THERE an injection that will prevent me from suffering (and I do mean suffering) from hay fever this year?

It is possible to have desensitisation injections but these are rarely used in Britain be-

cause of the risk of serious or fatal reactions to them. A number of allergy clinics do, however, administer these under strictly controlled conditions. Another possibility is an injection of a long-acting steroid at the beginning of the season. But this also carries risks which probably outweigh the benefits of relieving your symptoms. A combination of antihistamine tablets, eye drops and nasal sprays is highly effective in controlling hay fever.

Please send your questions to A Question of Health, The Independent, 1 Canada Square, Canary Wharf, London E14 5DL; fax 0171-293 2182; or e-mail to health@independent.co.uk. Dr Kavalier regrets that he is unable to respond personally to questions.

7 IN 10 CHILDREN SURVIVE LEUKAEMIA. BUT ONLY 3 IN 10 ADULTS.

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LEUKAEMIA RESEARCH FUND

MEDIA

TV news has a duty to show us what armed conflict is really like, however distressing it may be. By Fergal Keane

Viewers, look away now

They were images of war's horror filmed close up, the kind of televised images that we rarely see in our newsrooms these days: soldiers firing wildly around the streets; crowds of terrified people cowering as the battle raged around them; a man running and begging for his life and then shot dead; and, in the final image, a boy of about 10 years old screaming for his life as Nigerian soldiers beat him and stripped him of his clothes.

The cameraman who filmed these images, Soroush Samura, has been covering the battle for Freetown, the capital of Sierra Leone, for several days. To do so he risked his life on an hourly basis. When I met him in Freetown he mentioned that he had some film. Would I like to see it? The following morning I sat and watched his video account of the battle. I soon realised that there was a great deal of material that simply could not be used – the vultures feasting on corpses outside the main hospital, the bodies set alight and burning in the streets, a man with his arms half hacked away.

But there were three images which I asked my cameraman to copy for me from the original tape: the man being executed, the child soldier being beaten and stripped and footage of a group of rebels setting fire to a house in which a family was hiding. At that point I had no idea how much of the material I would be able or want to use.

But as graphic illustrations of the brutality of the war in Sierra Leone they were without parallel: something told me these were images that deserved wider circulation. Back in London and editing my first report for the *Nine O'clock News* I watched those images again and again. I showed them to as many of my colleagues as I could find. The editor and deputy editor of the *Nine* came into the edit suite repeatedly as we all tried to find a way of using some of the footage without offending good taste or alienating the audience. There were elements of what Soroush had filmed that simply could not be shown: the man being executed, the continual beating of the boy, Moses, by the Nigerians, the way he was hurled naked on the road in preparation for execution (he was saved in the nick of time by a Nigerian general and Sierra Leone's information minister).

But we decided to use some of the material. My own logic was clear



A man suspected of collaborating with the rebels in Freetown is dragged into the street and moments later shot dead. BBC

enough: this was a war that had claimed 5,000 lives in a few weeks, a war in which Britain was involved through its support for the Nigerian-led forces of Ecomog and the government of President Kabbah. It was also a war in which thousands of children were being forced to fight as soldiers, mostly by the rebels.

I knew from my own conversations with Save the Children that the issue of child soldiers was escalating into a major international problem – there are at least 300,000 children fighting in adult wars around the world. The crisis has become so acute that Save the Children is launching a major campaign to have the recruitment of child

soldiers declared a war crime.

And it also occurred to me that to describe a war as "brutal" and "savage" without illustrating the truth of its brutality was pointless.

But we kept returning to a simple question: how much of this misery could we show without offending the audience or alienating them from the subject at hand?

And so we tried to edit and script as judiciously as possible, deciding against using the images of the prisoner as he was executed. With Moses, it was more difficult. Whatever we showed of his interrogation was bound to prove traumatic for some members of the audience. Throughout the day we debated

among ourselves and with the editors. At the end a consensus was achieved: we would show Moses being questioned, the initial blows being struck and the soldiers manhandling him on to the truck.

The imagery of the troops repeatedly beating Moses and the child lying naked on the road would not show; we all took the view that they represented a horror too far. The critical point – that this war brutalised children in terrible ways – was clearly made by the images we finally decided to use.

We were of course careful to tell the audience that Moses had survived his ordeal and, indeed, we filmed him recovering at a special

camp for war children. I believed then and I believe now that we were right to transmit the story as we did. A number of viewers did not agree. Too graphic, too horrible, unfit for television, some said.

It was the image of the child being brutalised by the Nigerians to which they objected. I was taken aback by the complaints. Surely what mattered was the brutal abuse being inflicted on children, not the fact that a news organisation had chosen to show what was happening.

I was happy to see that some of the callers on the overnight telephone log felt we had done the right thing. Many said they had no idea such things were happening in

Sierra Leone, a country with which Britain has close links. The reaction from organisations dealing with children in crisis was especially approving for what we had done.

But if some people felt strongly that we should not have broadcast the images then I, as a public service broadcaster, am obliged to take their concerns seriously. I read through the telephone log of complaints and the e-mails; I also read a powerfully written, intelligent letter from a woman in Lancashire who wrote that showing such images changed nothing. After the Holocaust, Bosnia and Rwanda what was the point?

I disagree but that is a debate for another day. I am one of those who believes we should be judicious in our use of war imagery. I don't believe people should have horror forced down their throat every night. I have a three-year-old son and I don't want him going to bed with nightmares because of what he has seen on television.

That of course is why we have a 9pm watershed and why we warn audiences when we are about to transmit potentially upsetting material. But the fact is that there are times – the Rwandan genocide, the war in the former Yugoslavia and now Sierra Leone – when we need to show exactly what is happening, what is being done. Of course this should only happen after the watershed when the majority of those watching are adults.

However, I was surprised by the level of complaints from some members of the public. Of course they have a right to their point of view, and, as a public service broadcaster, I always make a point of listening carefully. But would there have been the same level of anxiety if a gruesome horror movie had been shown or a film with explicit sex scenes. I may be wrong but I rather doubt it.

We live in a world that seems worryingly comfortable with the idea of horror as fantasy: we can watch Bruce Willis and his equals blow their enemies to kingdom come and our children can watch it and imagine that all of this televised violence is safe. But war and violence are not safe. They kill children and adults, they maim and destroy innocence. Every so often we need to be reminded of this.

The writer is a BBC special correspondent

THE WORD ON THE STREET



IN A cost-cutting move of sheer genius, Express Newspapers' IT department decided it could save a little money if it removed the computer system which provides legal warnings for its electronic cuttings library. Clearly a luxury Lord Hollick's lean machine could do without. Almost immediately an old Hugh Grant interview was pulled up in which the actor was libellously quoted. The quote, which had cost *The Express* £30,000, was repeated at the end of a new story about Grant as soon as the warning system ended and his lawyers have been in touch. A new legal warning system has been ordered.

MEANWHILE, AT Associated Newspapers, there are different problems with computers. They keep sprouting legs and running away. Police are investigating the theft of nine new state-of-the-art laptops which disappeared through a hole in a secure room's ceiling, and at *Weekend* magazine a designer's computer has disappeared. But if the thieves hadn't been so blatant would an organisation as wealthy as Associated ever have noticed they were gone?

DURING THE Chinese cultural revolution no one could afford to be without the little red book of Mao thoughts. The BBC which, like the Chinese Communist party, is a monolith flitting with capitalism, has just produced its own little red book – a mission statement card to help employees remember the corporation's aim: "To be the world's most creative and trusted broadcaster and programme maker..." This turns into an eight-line sentence with nine subordinate clauses. As Orwell observed, the first victim of orthodoxy is usually the English language.

Plumbing the depths in the search for sleaze

Press coverage of John Prescott's visit to the Maldives to inspect dying coral was a travesty, argues Roger Harrabin

AFTER WADING through the press coverage of John Prescott's whistlestop visit to the Maldives I have developed an unfamiliar and unexpected sense of pity for some of Britain's senior politicians – and a sense of despair at the failure of the media to explain to the public the big picture of what on earth is really happening.

Here are the facts: the world has experienced the most pervasive and destructive death of coral reefs that scientists have ever registered. On some reefs in the Maldives, 95 per cent of corals are dead. In Vietnam, some ancient corals thought to be more than 1,000 years old have been killed. Some sober scientists are referring to the episode as a global catastrophe. And this month the US State Department asserted that climate change fuelled by the air pollution we create was probably partly to blame.

This massive and worrying upheaval in nature has scarcely been reported in the British media. Mr Prescott travelled to the Maldives at the end of an official visit to India to discuss the issue with the President and to gather ammunition for future global negotiations by witnessing the coral destruction for himself.

Here is the story as it was spun by most of the media: After years of condemning Tory sleaze, Labour are now up to their necks in it. John Prescott has taken an extravagant

holiday at the taxpayers' expense. He is staying in luxury hotels, sipping pina colodas, getting a suntan, and having fun scuba diving on the coral reef. And by the way, he is fat ... so he is fair game for ridicule if he wears a wetsuit.

Of course, any ministerial visit to a paradise such as the Maldives was always rich in "junket story" potential and the Fleet Street die was cast when *The Sun* concocted a fictitious postcard from Mr Prescott to Tony Blair, apologising for missing the Budget while farting his way through a plateful of samosas. The news editors put political correspondents or "colour" reporters on the case and kept at a distance the environment correspondents who were best able to judge the value of the mission.

The result for Mr Prescott was a very mixed blessing. He will go to forthcoming UN environment negotiations with increased personal clout, and may capture the imagination of his fellow ministers as he describes his dive in a "graveyard" of coral, and pleads for more action to cut pollution. He has also helped tell the coral story to millions of BBC listeners and viewers at home and abroad. But his integrity has been called into question.

This is a high price to pay, and Mr Prescott felt it sharply. Mr Prescott was indeed thrilled by the fish life he saw on his dives, but the dive itself



John Prescott scuba diving

Charles Anderson

was disrupted by potentially dangerous problems with his scuba equipment because he had not had time to try on the gear beforehand. And for the rest of the two-and-a-half day visit, Mr Prescott sweltered through visits and meetings in a full suit and tie in an attempt to deny a short-sleeved photo opportunity to a member of the British paparazzi.

With hindsight the Government's spin doctors could have avoided the easiest media hit by moving the story location from the honeymoon destination of the Maldives to the lesser-known Indian coral islands of the Laccadives. Presentationally this would have been safer, but the impact of the coral story would have suffered. The richer fish life in the Maldives made more powerful

TV, and the "Paradise Lost" story of the Maldives had much more listener appeal. I have returned from the trip with a burning anger at media trivialisation of a major environmental issue. Do the people who make news decisions really believe that the public do not care about such things as the future of the planet? And who in their right mind will want to lead the nation if we continue to hound all politicians as if they are all rascals and cheats?

Roger Harrabin travelled to the Maldives with the Deputy Prime Minister to report on the recent global swoosh of coral death. He is Environment Specialist on BBC Radio 4's *Today Programme*.

The global village still needs its parish pump

Figures show local newspapers now lead the way in increased sales, and national editors are taking note. By Naomi Marks

WHILE IT may be fashionable to speak of living in a global village, it seems that what people want most as we approach the millennium is news of what is happening on their doorstep.

Latest ABC results for weekly local newspapers suggest that a vigorous back-to-basics philosophy is paying dividends for these titles, with those concentrating most on parochial coverage recording remarkable sales increases.

And Independent Television Commission research shows that while, between 1991 and 1993, national news was the preferred programming, with local and regional news coming second, between 1995 and 1997, the positions reversed.

Mirror editor Piers Morgan plans to be the first national newspaper editor to take such findings seriously, with a regional offensive designed to capitalise on the public's apparent appetite for all things local.

Morgan won't go into detail about his planned "Project X", but says it is intended to repeat the sales successes notched up by *The Mirror* in Scotland and Ireland – both regions where he has set up *Mirror* "redoms", each with their own reporting team under a separate editor.

In Scotland, *Mirror* sales went from 20,000 to nearly 100,000 when the regional strategy was combined with price-cutting. Says Morgan: "We feel there's a lot of scope if you concentrate on particular areas where there is a real sense of community, rather than give them a load of stuff in the main edition, which is perhaps irrelevant."

It is an offensive that, Morgan

agrees, draws strongly on the roots strategy of local newspapers. After years of trying to stall sales losses by mimicking Fleet Street papers, many are now reverting to type – with parish-pump news proving a winning formula with readers.

As recently released July to December 1998 figures show, nearly 70 per cent of the UK's 375 weekly paid-for newspapers increased their sales year-on-year, with nine recording double-figure percentage rises. Graham Smith, the editor of the *East Kent Mercury*, which covers Deal, Sandwich and Dover, is still reeling from the success of having topped the best-performers' league for weekly papers, with a 23.8 per cent rise in sales year-on-year.

It is with pride that he refers to his title as "a very traditional, no-frills type of paper". In the year since Smith became editor, he has championed a small-scale version of the *Mirror*'s tactic. In response to readers' demands for more news about their immediate vicinity, he launched a Dover edition, and put in place 17 community correspondents. "They give us lovely little yarns, such as the person in one village who kept having the gnomes in his garden nicked, so he chained them down. It made a lovely front-page picture."

Smith says the secret of his paper's success is its style, as well as its substance: "We don't try to ape the nationals at all, and certainly not the tabloids. I do think experience shows that local papers that try to ape them seem to come a cropper in terms of sales." When, recently, the local mayor was attacked by the

local dog warden because of his relationship with the warden's wife, the paper splashed on the story, but it did so in typically restrained fashion. But it is the addition of the new Dover edition of the *Mercury* that Smith has to thank for the bulk of the sales increase.

Others, too, testify to the success of editing. Three of the top-five best-performing weeklies put their success down to this tactic. And the editors of the best-performing regional evening, the *Doncaster Star*, and best-performing regional morning, the *Faisley Daily Express*, both point to keeping things "local, local, local" as the key.

There are, of course, other factors affecting the health of the local newspaper sector, not least a buoyant economy and an ownership restructuring, which has seen many papers return to the hands of dedicated regional press owners from large media conglomerates.

Piers Morgan admits that earlier attempts to increase regional coverage have been "a cop-out", consisting of either single-page changes or columns of regional news-in-briefs. "Project X" promises something different.

"What we've seen is that where we target the Irish and Scottish with their own news stories, and perhaps the London-based stuff, then we do better. So, you would imagine that in places like Manchester and Birmingham, if we can offer some regional coverage which complements the main paper, then we can be successful, too. That's what we're going to do."

JP 11/03/99

Why the BBC should stop chasing ratings

News at Ten's demise means that the BBC must aim for quality, not viewing figures. By Bernard Clark

FIVE YEARS ago I asked a senior BBC executive "who or what has the greatest influence on television ratings in Britain?" His reply "The Prime Minister, of course." There followed a fascinating exposition of how John Major's refusal to allow the death of *News at Ten* had saved the BBC up to 10 points of their audience share.

He added, "If *News at Ten* ever does go, the BBC, as presently constituted, is in trouble - and will need to rethink its core purpose."

As we now know from the sharpest drop of ratings on BBC1 for a generation, he was right. But if the BBC realised what would happen in advance, why did they take so little action?

The answer is deviously complex, and while old hands like me remain a little sceptical, I cannot fault their logic. The word "ratings" is about to be dispatched into BBC history. From now on, the BBC will seek to compete in a different way. Traditionally, the BBC

believed it must appeal to a mass audience in order to justify the mandatory licence fee. Over the last decade or so, we have seen them retreat from a target of 50 per cent of all viewing, towards a comfort zone of 40 per cent. Now that will be shaved further, down to a third, or within a few years, perhaps just 30 per cent. That is not their fault, just the inevitable outcome of having to respond to a hyper-competitive television market-place on a fixed income.

But within the last year, the BBC has come to realise that every expensive but soulless Hollywood blockbuster on ITV, is also an opportunity for them to appear "a bit special".

The word watershed has two meanings in this context. In TV land it has always meant that moment after 9pm when respectable children should be in bed, and controllers can show naked breasts or contemplate the word fuck.

It was in order to be able to play adult films in the heart of its schedule that ITV shed itself of *News at Ten*. But the ramifications go far deeper than ITV increasing its share at the expense of BBC1.

The broader meaning of the word watershed came with the overnights figures of Monday 8 March when ITV took a 48 per cent share of prime time to BBC's 25 per cent. BBC TV realised it must separate itself in spirit from commercial television.

From that moment on, the BBC would have to stop competing head to head for audiences, and go for the nation's heart and soul.

The *Nine o'clock News* is the key to understanding what's going to happen. In terms of ratings, it's a scheduling disaster when faced with the new ITV line-up. Research shows that viewers want their evening's entertainment to build up after news, not have news in the

middle. This is kindergarten programme planning, and the clever schedulers at the BBC know this. So why is the *Nine o'clock News* still there, and with a virtually unknown presenter about to join? Is it a mistake of gigantic proportions?

The answer is - probably - no. In fact it is part of a carefully worked out strategy to manage an inevitable decline in audience share, while increasing its sense of being indispensable.

And the canny old BBC understands this does not mean they can settle into some kind of elitist backwater, and need not be popular. When they have special programmes, they still need people to watch them.

But it does mean they must get real, and not compete slavishly in the bums-on-seats market without caring who's bum is on what seat, and why.

For instance, ITV has the bucks to pay for a first-run Bond,

which decimated BBC1. Fine. Lots of us like Bond, but leave it to ITV. *Police Camera Action* and *Families at War* are great mindless pulp, and precisely what commercial television should produce. But a public service broadcaster, protected by statute? I don't think so.

In order to compete full blast for the popular audience, late evening news on both channels would have to go, and so far there's no evidence to suggest the BBC is losing its public service nerve to be commercial in the face of the ferociously competitive schedule on ITV.

The internal battle will continue to rage between the purists who want their BBC tucked into the nation's soul, and the populists who believe that survival for the licence fee means a 40 per cent plus share of viewing - but it looks like the purists are winning.

This means the BBC will no

longer attempt to be all things to all people; instead, it will be important things to all people - and if those things are different and distinctive, that more than justifies the licence fee.

Different and distinctive, haven't we heard those words elsewhere? The world of broadcast television is nothing if not an eco-system. Faced with an onslaught from ITV, as the BBC becomes "different and distinctive", the pressure will tell on Channel 4, who are themselves statutory charged with that responsibility, caught in a vice between a semi-popular but different BBC1, and a different kind of niche BBC2.

And worse, the BBC may by then have re-captured Channel 4's deepest thinker, however much Michael Jackson protests he does not want to be Director General. As I wrote earlier, the ramifications of moving *News at Ten* are devious and complex.

Of course the traditionalists will say that for once in his life John Major was right and ITV should have stayed as it was, but I do not agree. I welcome the requirement for the BBC to redefine its role, to work out anew what it should give us for our licence fees.

Soon we will hear a great deal about the BBC being different - in fact it's already underway. The BBC's chief executive of broadcasting, Will Wyatt, put down a marker when speaking to the House of Commons All Party Media Group.

Just last week he told them, "The differences between what we do as a public service broadcaster and what the rest of broadcasting does, has grown, and will grow further."

Which why, as the last two weeks overnights landed like turds on the Television Centre carpet, Auntie did not reach for the smelling salts. The figures had been expected, and a long term strategy to protect the licence fee was already in place.

The highly successful 'Mail on Sunday' has been relaunched. It's certainly new, but is it improved? By Peter Cole

Any old Sunday?

THE *Mail* newspapers have become the great exceptions. As we discuss the general decline in sales of newspapers, talk of irreversibility, and search for reasons (young people don't read, the Internet etc), we have to qualify all such conversations with "except for the *Mail* and the *Mail on Sunday*, of course."

Why of course? There's no "of course" about it. It is the easiest thing in the world to hide behind a trend - if all papers are losing sales then it cannot be our fault - but it's the hardest thing in the world to buck one. The *Mail's* daily and Sunday newspapers consistently do just that, and have done over a long period of time.

While the *Sunday Express* is losing sales at a rate of 11 per cent a year (comparing the most recent six-month period with the same period a year ago), the *Mail on Sunday* is increasing sales at 4.8 per cent. The *Express* has sunk to just over one million sales; the *Mail on Sunday* is selling over 2.3 million copies, and rising.

It is a spectacular success, much

envied by other editors, who spend their time discussing how it is done. I have always thought the *Daily Mail* does it better, with more conviction, but the formula, put simply, is understanding the audience with great precision, knowing, anticipating and reinforcing their preoccupations and prejudices, being confident enough not to follow the pack, ie sticking to their own news agenda, promoting hard, and employing fine journalists over a long period of time - the *Mail* has never been susceptible to the "clear out the old guard and hire young writers" ethos so common today.

The *Mail on Sunday* has just repackaged itself, more a face-lift than a new model, a few "extras" thrown in as standard. It has changed the feel and content of its magazine, *Night & Day*, and added a *Review* in the format of the newspaper. Why? Why fix it when it was manifestly working?

Generally the paper seems to have tightened up under the new editor Peter Wright, with more emphasis on news than is often the case on Sunday, and a harder political edge. It was brave to name Joe Ashton as the MP not having sex in the

Northampton Thai brothel, when most other papers left out the name "for legal reasons".

The launch of former *Express* editor Richard Addis' new section, *Review* - nobody tries to think up clever titles any longer, they all use the same - has an impact on the main section. One of the attractions of *The Mail on Sunday* was that it offered a more consolidated package than most of its rivals - but with the new section not only Stewart Steven's column but many of the topical personality features in which the paper specialises, which provided engaging variety to the old main section, have moved out of this section and into *Review*. It has left the first section news-and-sport only, and presented the usual profile of the early pages of a *Review* section, before you get to the reviews. What makes a *Review* front page? The early signs are that *The Mail on Sunday* is going to find this as much a problem as the other papers.

So why introduce the new section? I suppose because the evidence from *The Sunday Times*, which has so much in common with *The Mail on Sunday* - each paper is probably the other's main rival, which makes it the more interesting that

they are the two most successful Sunday papers of the moment - is that the public likes multi-section newspapers. But *Review* will have to improve.

The *Mail on Sunday's* financial success, is probably the best section around, but that was there before the face-lift, as was *Night & Day* which, unlike *Financial Mail on Sunday*, has been substantially changed in this new package.

The previous *Night & Day* was accused of being too masculine, but then there was *You* magazine, the most women's magazine of all Sunday magazines (that continues rel-

atively unchanged). Now *Night & Day*, which was refreshingly different from its rivals, has taken on a glossy cover, absorbed the broadcast listings magazine *Programme*, now called *Choice*, and lost the reviews to *Review*, obviously. But in so doing it has made both *Review* and *Night & Day* more conventional. The old *Night & Day* had an original approach to book reviews in particular.

The original conception of *Weekend*, the *Mail's* outstanding Saturday TV and features magazine, was Christena Appleyard's. She later left for *The Times*, but is now back at the *Mail* and behind the *Night &*

new it tended to be original. This latest *Mail on Sunday* revamp has made the paper more conventional than it was before, more like other papers. It has produced the packages in the same shape you find elsewhere, nicked some old ideas, produced a magazine which, on the outside at least, feels like any other colour magazine - only *The Mail on Sunday* has already got one of those, so now it has two.

It will continue to sell because the journalism's good and the opposition is lousy. But it lacks that spark of flair and originality David English always contributed, or demanded.

Peter Cole is the former editor of the *Sunday Correspondent* and is now a professor of journalism at the University of Central Lancashire, Preston

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Richard Addis (left), consultant on *Review*; Christena Appleyard, editor of *Night and Day*; Peter Wright, editor of *Mail on Sunday*



The *Night and Day* and *Programme* magazines (top left and middle) of Sir David English's day have been revamped as part of a new *Mail on Sunday* package

The editor who escaped from the lifestyle ghetto

Karen Jurgensen has just been appointed the first woman editor of 'USA Today', the largest circulation newspaper in America. By Andrew Marshall

KAREN JURGENSEN raises her eyes as she is asked the question for what must be the millionth time. "Insofar as my appointment says to young women, 'you can do this too', I think that's wonderful, but I didn't set out to be the first woman editor of *USA Today*," she says, somewhat wearily.

But the first woman editor of *USA Today*, and only the second woman editor of a national title in America, is precisely what Ms Jurgensen is, at the age of 50. Sitting in her office with its commanding view of the city of Washington, she is at the top of the largest-circulation newspaper in America, a country where (as in Britain) the newspaper industry has a relentlessly male culture.

There was warm comment in the other papers at her appointment, but she plays it down. "This is just the natural progression of women in the

workplace," she says. Women are no longer limited to the style sections, as they were in the 1970s. "They were not taken particularly seriously." Since then, they have worked their way "through the ranks," she says, just as she moved from the Life section, through special projects editor, managing editor and, for the past eight years, editor of the editorial page, to the editor's office.

USA Today has a more balanced mix of men and women than some of its rivals. It targeted women readers before many US papers had got around to thinking about the changing demographics of the workplace. On the day she was interviewed, last Friday, 40 per cent of the articles in the news section of the paper were written by women, compared to 30 per cent in *The Washington Post* and 25 per cent in *The New York Times*.

Yet perhaps the most surprising thing about that comparison is that it can be made at all. At its birth, *USA Today* was ridiculed by the rest of the industry as "McPaper". It was said to be insubstantial, dominated by quick bites of stories matched with "infographics". Heavens, it had colour! Most observers did not expect it to survive, let alone flourish.

But Gamett, the owners, pressed on, sinking money into a project that looked to many like a surefire loser. Since then, the paper has come on by leaps and bounds. It has made money for the last five years, it has steadily added bureaux around the country, and the stories have got longer, heavier, more newsworthy.

And while the industry as a whole has contracted in America, *USA Today* has steadily expanded to the point where its five-day circulation now stands over 2 million when



Karen Jurgensen

on the achievements of David Mazarrella, editor for the last four years. Her aim, she says, is to turn what is already a successful product into a "lasting institution". When she was asked about the job last summer, she says, "sat and thought about it and made lots of lists" of positive and negative factors. "I looked at what I'd already done and decided it was a wonderful offer."

She has a reputation for being calm and cool-headed, say colleagues. Her office and her desk are meticulously ordered, with just the family pictures to give a personal touch. She is a very disciplined person, she says, one of the things that helps protect her against the debilitating pressures of editing. "I tend to be pretty organised and I tend to be a delegator." She will need to be: running a machine with dozens of print sites in the US and abroad, that

covers a market with three time zones from the Pacific to the Atlantic, makes it a huge management task.

She hit the headlines herself briefly in 1990, when she described in a moving piece an incident that happened in her 20s. "I am a rape victim," she wrote, describing the episode in horrifying detail. "I want you to know the police treated me as though I was the criminal. I thought, we can't be silent. We have to let people know that we're here."

It brought many warm letters of support and much appreciation by those on the paper and among readers.

Part of the job will be to continue to build on the relationship the paper has built with its readership. "I would like to discover the kind of newspaper readers will care about," she says. She also wants closer links between the paper and the on-line product which, according to no-

tics pinned up in the office, is now the largest general-interest news site on the Internet.

There is justifiable pride among the paper's older hands about what has been achieved. "We built it from nothing in less than 17 years," says Ms Jurgensen. "But do I think we're perfect?" No. "And if there was one thing... it she could change about the paper overnight, just by clicking her fingers?" She thinks for a while and then says: "Authority."

It is true that while the paper has achieved huge things, it is still not seen as a heavyweight in the same league as *The New York Times*. Yet that is, partly, a factor of its vast nationwide readership, the diversity of which is reflected in its pages.

It is a formidable task, but one that Ms Jurgensen clearly relishes. "You try to do the best you can," she says wryly.

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NEW FILMS

APRIL (15)

Director: Nanni Moretti
Starring: Nanni Moretti, Silvia Nono
More meta-documentary shenanigans from Nanni Moretti, a sort of Roman Woody Allen complete with the same nerdy patter, the same self-reflexive neuroses. His skittish, mercurial April freewheels through a three-year period of Italian politics. Meantime, running as a kind of sunny counterpoint, goes the director's will-he-won't-he intention to make a musical about a Truskyte pastry chef. Impossible to pigeon-hole, April dances to its own realist/absurdist rhythms, before bowing out with a finale that's both ridiculous and charming. **West End:** Metro, Renou

ARLINGTON ROAD (15)

Director: Mark Pellington
Starring: Jeff Bridges, Tim Robbins
Trouble's a-brewing behind the manicured suburban laws of Mark Pellington's intriguingly staged paranoia thriller, which sees Jeff Bridges' college prof becoming suspicious about the antics of his outwardly respectable neighbour (Tim Robbins). Meanwhile, Pellington goes big on skewed camera angles, yet rings too few changes in his film's familiar territory. With Joan Cusack and Hope Davis. **West End:** ABC Shaftesbury Avenue, Clapham Picture House, Notting Hill, Coronet, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

A NIGHT AT THE ROXBURY (15)

Director: John Farrow
Starring: Will Ferrell, Chris Kattan
Farrow's indulgent showcase for Saturday Night Live favourites Ferrell and Kattan is so bawdy that it moos. Here come our imbecile heroes: squabbling with daddy (Dan Hedaya) and cruising the multi-spaces of Nimitz LA, while one dumb-fisted comedy sequence follows another: Think *Dumb and Dumber* without the wit. One whole night. It only feels that long. **West End:** Plaza, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

SEUL COMTE TOUS (18)

Director: Gaspar Noé
Starring: Philippe Nahon, Blandine Lenoir
Welcome to "shit-hole" France. Your guide: a sociopathic butcher (Nahon) who is pushed over the edge when he figures out that someone has abused his daughter. The style: crash-zooms and in-your-face close-ups. Less straight cinema than a kind of whiplashing fairground ride, *Seul Contre Tous* is an attention-grabbing debut for the talented Noé. But his harsh exposé of modern France is compromised by its creator's relentlessly gimmicky style. **West End:** Curzon Soho, Ritzy Cinema

SOUTHPAW (15)

Director: Liam McGrath
Starring: Francis Barrett
This coarse-grained, warm-hearted film charts the rise of 10-year-old light-weight Francis Barrett, an Irish traveller with dreams of Olympic glory. Bobbing around the caravan sites of County Galway, Liam McGrath's documentary gently spotlights anti-traveller prejudice while paying lip-service to the views of local eccentrics. *Southpaw* is a shade soft in its centre, but it's impeccably well-intentioned. **West End:** Metro

WAKING NED (PG)

Director: Kirk Jones
Starring: Ian Bannen, David Kelly
Good news first: Ned, a salt-of-the-earth resident of Tully in rural Ireland, has just won the lottery. Bad news: Ned is dead. Cue a rattle-bag of comedic misadventure as two skallywags scheme to get their paws on the loot. The film has a zesty undertow of black comedy, but is too air-brushed for its own good. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Odeon West End, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on Baker Street, Screen on the Green, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre. And local cinemas

Xan Brooks

GENERAL RELEASE

AFFLICTION (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above.
West End: ABC Swiss Centre

BELOVED (15)

Jonathan Demme's adaptation of Toni Morrison's multi-layered novel was always going to make for an uneasy marriage; hopping shakily between up-front dramatics and down-to-the-mix mysticism. Still, heartfelt acting and a vibrant visual sense paper over all manner of cracks. **West End:** Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

A BUG'S LIFE (U)

Humble insect Flick tries to save his community from marauding grasshoppers (headed by Kevin Spacey). **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Mezzanine, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

CENTRAL STATION (15)

Rio's steaming terminus serves as the launchpad for Walter Salles's Oscar-nominated Brazilian fable about a retired schoolmaster and her abandoned nine-year-old charge. The trip takes in all facets of Brazil's displaced and poverty-stricken culture, yet Salles steadfastly refuses to make any heavy handed political point. **West End:** Barbican Screen, Clapham Picture House, Curzon Mayfair, Gate Notting Hill, Renou, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, Virgin Fulham Road. Local: Croydon Clocktower

ENEMY OF THE STATE (15)

Will Smith's fall-guy DA teams up with Gene Hackman's pensioned-off Pentagon warhorse and gets embroiled in all manner of Big Brother-type trouble. **West End:** ABC Panton Street, Odeon Marble Arch, Virgin Trocadero. Local: Action Park Royal Warner Village

FESTEN (THE CELEBRATION) (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above.
West End: Chelsea Cinema, Curzon Soho, Screen on Baker Street. Repertory: Phoenix Cinema

HIDEOUS KINKY (15)

Through the landscape of 1970s Morocco trends Kate Winslet's hippie single-mum, her two daughters unwillingly in tow. Winslet does well as the tale's permanently strung-out, unsated matriarch. **West End:** ABC Swiss Centre, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Virgin Fulham Road

HILARY AND JACKIE (15)

Full-throttle playing from Rachel Griffiths and Emily Watson sustains Asand Tucker's warts-and-all biopic of the Du Pré sisters. Hilary (shy married fan) and Jacqueline (world-famous cellist). **West End:** ABC Panton Street

LIFE IS BEAUTIFUL (LA VITA E BELLA) (PG)

Roberto Benigni's comedy, the writer-director stars as a Jewish bookseller in fascist Italy. He is spirited off to a death-camp and strives to convince his son that it is just an eccentric game. **West End:** Curzon Soho, Curzon Minima, Odeon Kensington, Ritzy Cinema, Screen on the Hill, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Repertory: Phoenix Cinema, The Pulkman Everyman. Local: Warner Village North Finchley

LITTLE VOICE (15)

In her bedroom, Jane Horrocks perfects strident Shirley Bassey/Judy Garland impersonations. Bracing black comedy, plus a marvellously weighted turn from Michael Caine push the film through to the final curtain. **West End:** Odeon West End, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

LOVED (15)

Robin Wright Penn stars as an abused woman called upon by William Hurt's lawyer to testify against her brutal ex-boyfriend. **West End:** ABC Piccadilly

THE OPPOSITE OF SEX (18)

Don Roos' barum-scurum trip through American gender politics stars Christina Ricci as the dastardly teen whose precocious antics send the adults into a state. **West End:** Warner Village West End. Repertory: Watermans Arts Centre

OUT OF SIGHT (15)

George Clooney plays the law-breaking hero as a down-and-dirty version of Cary Grant, and turns in the best performance of his career so far. **West End:** Ritzy Cinema. Repertory: Prince Charles. Local: Wimbledon Odeon

PATCH ADAMS (12)

Through the hallowed halls of medical college goes Hunter "Patch" Adams (Robin Williams); a shock-doc who has the patients in stitches while giving a collective heave to the stuffy Establishment. It's like the ultimate distillation of the ultimate Robin Williams movie: the life sucked out and replaced by syrup. **West End:** ABC Tottenham Court Road, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Trocadero. And local cinemas

PECKER (18)

Trash auteur John Waters swerves into sunnier streets with Pecker, his satirical tale of an amateur photographer adopted by New York's elite. Repertory: Prince Charles

PLEASANTVILLE (12)

See The Independent Recommends, above.
West End: Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Plaza, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Haymarket, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

SCHIZOPOLIS (15)

In Steven Soderbergh's experimental film, suburban manners, corporate paranoia, dental hygiene and the rituals of adultery are deconstructed in energetic, scattergun fashion, though the film is finally too film-school wacky to appeal. **West End:** Curzon Soho

SHAKESPEARE IN LOVE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above.
West End: ABC Tottenham Court Road, Empire Leicester Square, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

THE THIN RED LINE (15)

See The Independent Recommends, above.
West End: Clapham Picture House, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Kensington, Odeon Leicester Square, Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, Ritzy Cinema, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Chelsea, Virgin Fulham Road. And local cinemas

THE 39 STEPS (1935 VERSION) (PG)

The 39 Steps stands proud as the most polished pic of Hitchcock's early, British period. The film is as light and bracing as oxygen: all witty twists and throwaway lines as it builds towards a crescendo. **West End:** ABC Swiss Centre

THIS YEAR'S LOVE (18)

A cast of Britain's finest (Guthrie Burke, Ian Hart et al) weave to and fro through David Kane's Camden-set essay on urban romance. **West End:** Gate Notting Hill, Odeon Camden Town, Odeon Haymarket, Ritzy Cinema, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

VERY BAD THINGS (18)

Peter Berg's debut serves up swaggering gross-out comedy, but it's finally a film with nowhere to go save from shrill to shriller to shrillest. With Cameron Diaz. **West End:** Warner Village West End. Local: Action Park Royal Warner Village

YOU'VE GOT MAIL (PG)

Tom Hanks and Meg Ryan star in this contrived romance saved by a shrewd Internet plot hook. **West End:** Odeon Marble Arch, Odeon Swiss Cottage, UCI Whiteleys, Virgin Fulham Road, Virgin Haymarket, Virgin Trocadero, Warner Village West End. And local cinemas

YOUR FRIENDS AND NEIGHBORS (18)

Another troubling X-ray of American mores from In the Company of Men director Neil LaBute. **West End:** ABC Piccadilly

THE INDEPENDENT RECOMMENDS

THE FIVE BEST FILMS

Pleasantville (12)
Two Nineties teenagers are magicked into the world of a favourite Fifties sitcom and begin to exert a dramatic influence on its conformist black-and-white idyll. A witty, inventive parable.

Festen (15)
Danish director Thomas Vinterberg's superlative black comedy centres on the 60th birthday of a family patriarch who finds himself at the heart of dark secrets that unexpectedly emerge.

The Thin Red Line (15)
Terrence Malick returns to the screen after a 20-year absence with a hugely ambitious film about the battle of Guadalcanal. A war movie of a sort, though what that sort might be is uncertain.

Affliction (15)
Paul Schrader's bleak study in fatherhood and fatalism, stars Nick Nolte as a man struggling to escape the influence of his violent dad, James Coburn (right), in an Oscar-winning performance.

Shakespeare in Love (15)
This enjoyable, multi-Oscar winning film suggests how romance fired Shakespeare with the creative inspiration for *Romeo and Juliet*.



ANTHONY QUINN

THE FIVE BEST PLAYS

Troilus and Cressida
(Olivier, NT, London)
This theatre and this Shakespeare play are made for each other, a fact proved by the masterly sweep and precision of focus in Trevor Nunn's gifted production. **To 19 May**

Shockheaded Peter
(Lyric Hammersmith, London)
The *Swampwater* stories, served up as an unforgettably gory feast of the comic macabre in this mordantly inventive evening of music theatre. **To 10 Apr**

Copenhagen
(Duchess Theatre, London)
Michael Frayn's profound and haunting meditation on science, morality and the mysteries of human motivation. **To 7 Aug**

The Dispute
(Poole Arts Centre)
Neil Bartlett's devilishly good production of Marivaux's clever tragic-comedy (right). **To 2 Mar**



PAUL TAYLOR

THE FIVE BEST SHOWS

Jackson Pollock
(Tate Gallery)
Big retrospective for the wild hero of Abstract Expressionism (going on Old Master). The build-up is slow and the end is wry, but the brief "drip" period deserves every superlative. **To 6 Jun**

Portraits by Ingres (National Gallery)
Some of the most intense portraiture ever. Equivocal mixtures of flesh and fabric, dreams of sex and money. **To 25 Apr**

Patrick Caulfield
(Hayward Gallery)
The modern object-world made luminous. Caulfield is a virtuoso of many styles, and this retrospective offers the range (right) - notably those flat, laconic outlines flooded with translucent colour. **To 11 Apr**



JOHN SELL COTMAN

Oppé Watercolour Collection
(Whitworth, Manchester)
Classic British watercolours made largely outdoors, including Alexander Cozens' sketches, Constable, John Sell Cotman and Francis Towne. **To 5 Apr**

Richard Deacon
(Tate, Liverpool)
Chunky, curvaceous assemblages of wax, metal and plastic by the noted sculptor. **To 6 Mar**

CINEMA WEST END

ABC PANTON STREET
(0870-802 0404) • Piccadilly
Circus 12.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm
Enemy of the State 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm, 8.20pm, 8.45pm, 8.55pm, 9.15pm, 9.35pm, 9.55pm

ABC PICCADILLY
(0171-287 4322) • Piccadilly
Circus 12.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm
Enemy of the State 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm, 8.20pm, 8.45pm, 8.55pm, 9.15pm, 9.35pm, 9.55pm

ABC SHAFESBURY AVENUE
(0870-802 0402) • Leicester Square
Circus 12.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm
Enemy of the State 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm, 8.20pm, 8.45pm, 8.55pm, 9.15pm, 9.35pm, 9.55pm

ABC SWISS CENTRE
(0870-802 0403) • Leicester Square
Circus 12.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm
Enemy of the State 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm, 8.20pm, 8.45pm, 8.55pm, 9.15pm, 9.35pm, 9.55pm

ABC TOTTENHAM COURT ROAD
(0870-802 0414) • Tottenham Court Road
Circus 12.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.10pm
Enemy of the State 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm
Hilary and Jackie 1.30pm, 5.05pm, 7.55pm, 8.20pm, 8.45pm, 8.55pm, 9.15pm, 9.35pm, 9.55pm

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ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0870-050007) • Marble Arch
Patch Adams 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 8.55pm, 9.15pm
Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 8.55pm, 9.15pm, 9.35pm, 9.55pm

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ODEON MARBLE ARCH
(0870-050007) • Marble Arch
Patch Adams 12.30pm, 3.30pm, 6.10pm, 8.45pm, 8.55pm, 9.15pm
Shakespeare in Love 12.30pm,

STRATFORD

NEW STRATFORD PICTURE HOUSE
(0115-553 3366) BR/Stratford
Arington Road, 3.35pm, 6.25pm,
8.55pm. A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4.30pm,
6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm. Patch Adams
3.15pm, 8.20pm. Pleasantville
3.15pm, 8.20pm. The Thin Red Line
1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm.
Waking Ned 2.15pm, 4.25pm,
6.45pm, 9.10pm.

STREATHAM
ABC (0870-9020415) BR/Stratford
ABC at the Rotunda 2.30pm,
6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm. Patch
Adams 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 8.20pm.
Shakespeare in Love 2.25pm,
5.35pm, 8.25pm.

ODEON (0870-500007) BR/Stratford
Hill/Stratford Arington Road, 1.10pm,
2.10pm, 4.10pm, 6.10pm, 8.10pm,
10.10pm. A Bug's Life 1.30pm, 4.30pm,
6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm. Patch
Adams 2.15pm, 4.35pm, 8.20pm.
Pleasantville 3.15pm, 8.20pm. The Thin
Red Line 1.15pm, 4.35pm, 8pm.
Urban Legend 8.30pm, 9.30pm.
7.40pm Waking Ned 1.40pm, 4.40pm,
6.20pm, 8.40pm. You've Got Me@
12.40pm, 5.50pm.

SURREY QUAYS
UCL (0990-888990) © Surrey Quays
Arington Road 1pm, 3.45pm,
6.20pm, 9.20pm, 11.45pm. A Bug's
Life 1.30pm, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 6.30pm,
8.30pm. A Night at the Roxbury
2.10pm, 4.30pm, 6.40pm, 8.55pm,
9.30pm, 11.30pm. Patch Adams
1.30pm, 4pm, 6.50pm, 9.30pm,
11.50pm. Pleasantville 2.15pm,
5.40pm. Shakespeare in Love
3.45pm, 6.40pm, 9.40pm. The Thin
Red Line 1.40pm, 4.15pm, 8.10pm.
This Year's Love 8.30pm, 11.30pm.
Urban Legend 8.30pm, 9.30pm.
12.10pm Waking Ned 12.00pm,
2.15pm, 4.15pm, 7.10pm, 9.40pm,
12.10pm. You've Got Me@ 1pm,
6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11.30pm.

SUTTON
UCL (0990-888990) BR/Sutton
Morden, The Acid House
1.15pm, 4.15pm, 6.15pm, 8.15pm,
10.15pm. A Night at the Roxbury
4.15pm, 7pm, 9.45pm. Patch
Adams 1.15pm, 3.30pm, 6.30pm,
9.15pm. Shakespeare in Love
2.15pm, 4.45pm, 6.45pm, 9.45pm,
11.50pm. Pleasantville 1.30pm,
4.30pm. The Thin Red Line 1.30pm,
4.30pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm.
8pm Waking Ned 12.30pm, 3pm,
6pm, 8.30pm. You've Got Me@ 1pm,
6.10pm, 8.40pm, 11.30pm.

SWISS COTTAGE
WARNER VILLAGE (0181-446
9344) © East Finchley/Finchley
Central Arington Road 1.40pm,
3.40pm, 5.40pm, 7.40pm, 9.40pm.
The Thin Red Line 1.10pm, 4.10pm,
6.10pm, 8.10pm, 10.10pm. Patch
Adams 1.40pm, 4.20pm, 7pm, 9.45pm.
Pleasantville 1.20pm, 4pm,
6.30pm, 9.30pm. Shakespeare in
Love 2.15pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm,
10.15pm. The Thin Red Line 1.05pm,
4.05pm, 6.30pm, 8.30pm, 10.30pm.
8.40pm La Vita & Bella 5.50pm.
Waking Ned 1.10pm, 3.20pm,
6.30pm, 8.40pm, 10.50pm. You've
Got Me@ 1pm, 3.50pm, 6.40pm, 9.20pm.

TURNPIRE LANE
UCL (0181-888 2519) © Turnpike
Lane, Patch Adams 3.40pm,
6.05pm, 8.30pm. This Year's Love
4.05pm, 6.15pm, 8.40pm. Urban
Legend 3.45pm, 6pm, 8.40pm.

UBRIDGE
ODEON (0870-500007) © Ubridge
Arington Road 1.10pm, 3.35pm,
6pm, 8.30pm. A Bug's Life
1.10pm, 3.15pm. Patch Adams
5.30pm, 8.35pm.

WALTHAMSTOW
ABC (0870-9020424) © Walthamstow
Central The Highway 2.25pm,
A Night at the Roxbury 1.25pm,
3.55pm, 6.05pm, 8.40pm. Patch
Adams 2.15pm, 5.15pm. Shakespeare
in Love 2.10pm, 5.15pm, 8.15pm,
11.10pm.

WALTON
THE SCREEN (01932-252825)
BR/Walton-on-Thames Elizabeth
Central The Highway 2.25pm,
6.30pm, 8.30pm. Waking Ned 4.55pm,
7.55pm, 9pm.

WELL HALL
CROWN (0181-850 3351) BR/Well
Hall Pleasance 1.35pm, 8.20pm.
The Thin Red Line 3.30pm, 7.35pm.

WILLESDEN
BELLVILLE (0181-890 0822) ©
Willesden Green Meadow 4.45pm.
Shakespeare in Love 6.30pm, 9pm.

WIMBORNE
ODEON (0870-500007) BR/Wimborne
Central The Windmill Arington
Road 1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm,
7.10pm, 9.10pm. Elizabeth
1.10pm, 3.10pm, 5.10pm, 7.10pm,
9.10pm. Patch Adams 2.45pm, 5.50pm,
8.30pm. Pleasantville 3.30pm,
6.30pm. Shakespeare in Love
2.25pm, 5.45pm, 8.25pm. The Thin
Red Line 1.25pm, 4.25pm, 7.40pm,
10.40pm. Waking Ned 1.10pm, 4.10pm,
7.10pm, 10.10pm. You've Got Me@
1.10pm, 4.10pm, 7.10pm, 10.10pm.

WOODFORD
ABC (0181-989 3463) © South
Woodford Arington Road 2.45pm,
5.30pm, 8.15pm. Patch Adams
5.30pm, 8.15pm. Shakespeare in
Love 2.40pm, 5.30pm, 8.10pm.

WOOLWICH
CROWN (0181-854 5043) BR/Well
Hall Pleasance 1.35pm, 8.20pm.
The Thin Red Line 3.30pm, 7.35pm.

CINEMA
REPERTORY

LONDON
CINE LUMIERE Queensberry Place,
SW2 (0171-838 2144) Conte d'Este
(PG) 8.30pm.

ICA The Mall, SW1 (0171-930
3547) M. Maselli, La Déesse
6pm, 8.30pm. Modulations (NC)
6.30pm, 8.45pm.

NATIONAL FILM THEATRE South
Bank, SE1 (0171-928 3332) Fire
(15) 2.30pm. Love Affair/The Menace
Anything Goes (NC) 6pm.
Africa, My Africa: Crisis of the
Heart (NC) 6.15pm. Common Drama
Mae: Television (PG) 7.30pm. Brief
Moments/Virtue: Anything Goes
(NC) 8.30pm. Body Politics Part
Two: The Masculine Mind/Garde
Showcase (NC) 8.40pm.

PHOENIX High Road N2 (0181-444
6789) P. Smith, 11.15pm, 3.35pm,
8.45pm. La Vita & Bella (PG) 6.05pm.

PRINCE CHARLES Leicester Place,
SW2 (0171-837 8181) As Good As
It Gets (15) 1.15pm. Peeper (18)
4pm. Antz (PG) 6.35pm. Lolita
(18) 8.55pm.

THE PULLMAN EVERYMAN Holly
Bush Vale, NW3 (0171-606 2345)
La Vita & Bella (PG) 3.30pm,
6.10pm. The Mafiosi: Introduced by
Jim Carrey (PG) 8.45pm.

RIVERSIDE STUDIOS CINEMA
Crisp Road, W6 (0171-420 0100)
Before the Revolution (15) 6.30pm
+ The Conformist 8.45pm.

WATRAMANS ARTS CENTRE
Brentford (0181-568 1176)
Waking Ned (PG) 5pm, 9pm.
The Opposite of Sex (18) 7pm.

BRIGHTON

DUKE OF YORK'S CINEMA
(01273-602303) Classe de Nélge
(PG) 2.30pm. Dörmann (18)
4.30pm, 8.45pm. Dance Me to the
Song (NC) 6.30pm + (P) (15)
8.30pm, 8.30pm.

BRISTOL
WATERSHED (0117-925 3845)
Central Station (15) 6pm. Dörmann
(18) 6.10pm, 8.30pm. The
Opposite of Sex (18) 8.40pm.

CAMBRIDGE
ARTS CINEMA (01223-504444)
Central Station (15) 12.45pm,
7.10pm. Aprile (12) 3pm, 9.20pm.
La Vie Ravée des Anges (18) 5pm.

CARDIFF
CHAPTER ARTS CENTRE (01222-
399666) Secret Défense (PG) 7pm.
Hideous Kinky (15) 8pm.

CHESTER
NEW PARK FILM CENTRE (01243-
786505) Shakespeare in Love (15)
1.15pm, 3pm. Elizabeth (15)
3.45pm. The Opposite of Sex (18)
6.30pm.

IPSWICH
FILM THEATRE (01473-215544)
Sense and Sensibility (U) 2.30pm.
T. S. Eliot (18) 6pm, 8.15pm. La
Vita & Bella (PG) 6.15pm, 8.30pm.

LEICESTER
PHOENIX ARTS (0116-255 4854)
The Apple (5B) (PG) 6.15pm + (P)
(15) 8.30pm.

NORWICH
CINEMA CITY (01603-622047)
Hideous Kinky (15) 2.30pm,
8.15pm. La Vita & Bella (PG)
5.30pm.

PLYMOUTH
ARTS CENTRE (01752-206114)
+ (P) (15) 8pm.

CINEMA
COUNTRYWIDE

BRIGHTON
VICTORIA (0131-555145) Arington
Road (15): A Bug's Life (U); Eliza-
beth (15); Patch Adams (12);
Playback (12); Pleasantville (12);
The Rugrats Movie (U); Saving Private
Ryan (15); Shakespeare in Love
(15); The Thin Red Line (15); This
Year's Love (18); Waking Ned
(PG); You've Got Me@ (PG).

BRISTOL
CINEMA ONE (01273-602303)
Arington Road (15): A Bug's Life
(U); Elizabeth (15); Patch Adams
(12); Playback (12); Pleasantville
(12); The Rugrats Movie (U); Saving
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THEATRE
WEST END

Ticket availability details are for to-
day times and prices for the week
running times include intervals.
● — Seats at all prices — Seats
at some prices — Returns only
Madness — (1); Sun. (3); Tue. (4);
Wed. (5); Thu. (6); Fri. (7); Sat.
(8).

● AMADEUS David Suchet stars
as Salieri in Peter Shaffer's acclaimed
drama. Old Vic The Cuts, SE1 (0171-
494 5372/cc 484 5372) BR/Well-
come, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm,
[7] 3pm, £7.50-£30, 180 mins.

● ANIMAL CRACKERS Stage
version of the Marx Brothers' classic
farce from the Royal Exchange Thea-
tre, Lyric Shakespeare Avenue, W1
(0171-494 5045) © Picc. Circ. Mon-Sat
7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, [7] 8pm, £9.50-
£30, 160 mins.

● ART Tom Manton, Danny Webb,
and Gary Olsen in Yasmina Reza's
comedy about art and friendship.
Wyndham's Charing Cross Road,
WC2 (0171-369 1738/cc 887 1111)
© Le Soc. Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 3.00pm,
[7] 11.5pm, £9.50-£27.50, 90 mins.

● BEAUTY AND THE BEAST Fav-
ourite family musical based on Dis-
ney's cartoon version of the fairytale.
Dominion Tottenham Court
Road, W1 (0171-656 1888) © Tot
Ct Rd. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm,
[7] 2.30pm, £18.50-£35, 150 mins.

● BLOOD BROTHERS Willy Rus-
sell's long-running Liverpool musical
melodrama. Phoenix Charing Cross
Road, WC2 (0171-369 1738) © Le-
ic Soc. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [5] 3pm,
[7] 4pm, £11.50-£32.50, 165 mins.

● BUDDY Musical biopic showing
the life of Buddy Holly. Strand
Aldwych, WC2 (0171-930 8800)
© Everyman's, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, 8pm,
Fri-Sat 8pm & 8.30pm, Sat 8pm &
8.30pm, mats [1] 4pm, £10-£30,
half price Fri mats, 160 mins.

● CATS Lloyd Webber's musical ver-
sion of T. S. Eliot's poems. New Lon-
don Park Street, WC2 (0171-405
0072/cc 404 4079) © Covent Gar-
den, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm,
[7] 3pm, £10.50-£35, 165 mins.

● CHICAGO Maria Friedman and
Nicola D'Amico star in the
musical, Adelphi Maiden Lane,
WC2 (0171-344 0055) © Charing X.
Mon-Sat 8pm, [4] 7.30pm, £16-£36
(incl booking fee), 130 mins.

● THE COMPLETE HISTORY OF
AMERICA (ABRIDGED) Reduced
Shakespeare Company's keenly
acclaimed dramatic series. Piccadilly
Circuit, W1 (0171-369 1747) © Picc. Circ.
Tue-Sat 8pm, £10-£25, 120 mins.

● COPENHAGEN Drama from
Michael Frayn about the discovery of
the atom. Duchess Catherine Street,
WC2 (0171-494 5075/cc 344 4444)
© Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[5] 7.30pm, £10-£30, 145 mins.

● DEFENDING THE CAVEMAN
Mark Little stars in this witty and
wise comedy about the discovery of
the atom. Duchess Catherine Street,
WC2 (0171-494 5075) © Picc. Circ.
Mon-Thu 8pm, Fri-Sat 6pm &
8.45pm, £5-£25, concs available.

● DR DOULTIE Philip Schofield tal-
ks to the animals in this new stage ad-
aptation featuring Jim Henson Pupp-
ets. London Apollo Hammersmith
Theatre, W6 (0181-741 2311) © Hammersmith
Theatre, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, Tue-Sat
7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, 28 Aug, £12.50-
£32.50, 150 mins.

● GOOD CHARLES Dance in
CP Taylor's deceptively humorous
drama. Dornier Warehouse Earham
Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732)
© Covent Garden, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[5] 7.30pm, Tonight 7pm, ends
22 May, £14-£22, concs available.

● GREASE Energetic stage version
of the film, starring Darren Day.
Cambridge Theatre, Strand, WC2
(0171-494 5080) © Covent Garden,
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm, £10-
£32.50, 150 mins.

● GROSS INDECENCY THE
THREE TRIALS OF OSCAR WILDE
Michael Pennington and William
Houston in Moses Kaufman's recon-
struction of the downfall of the cele-
brated playwright. 616, 618, 620,
Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494
5065) © Picc. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm,
[4] 7.30pm, £7.50-£29.50.

● AN INSPECTOR CALLS Stephen
Daldry's widely-acclaimed produc-
tion of JB Priestley's thriller. Garrick
Charing Cross Road, WC2 (0171-494
5085) © Leic Soc. Mon-Fri 7.45pm,
Sat 8.15pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm,
£5.00pm, £12-£29.50, 110 mins.

● MACBETH Rufus Sewell and
Sally Dwyer portray the twisted
billion in Shakespeare's high-
charged Scottish play. Queen's
Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494
5040/cc 344 4444) © Picc. Circ.
Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 2.30pm, [7] 3pm,
£10.50-£28.50, 140 mins.

● MAURICE MAI New musical about
a man's reflections on his life. The
impending wedding day accom-
panied by Allen's back catalogue.
Prince Edward Old Compton Street,
W1 (0171-414 447) 5.40pm
© Leic Soc. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm,
[5] 7.30pm, £15-£35.

● THE MEMORY OF WATER
Alison Steadman and Stella Grogan
star in this touching comedy about
three sisters returning home after
their mother's funeral. Vaudeville
Strand, W1 (0171-835 9987)
BR/Wellcome, Mon-Sat 7.30pm,
[5] 7.30pm, £8-£27.50, 120 mins.

● LES MISÉRABLES Musical
dramatisation of Victor Hugo's
masterpiece, set during the French
Revolution. Palace Shaftesbury
Avenue, W1 (0171-434 0909)
© Picc. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm,
[7] 2.30pm, £7-£35, 195 mins.

● MISS SAIGON Musical which
recalls the Madam Butterfly tragedy
to Vietnam. Theatre Royal, Drury
Lane Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494
5060) © Covent Garden, Mon-Sat
7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, £8.50-£35,
165 mins.

● THE MOUSETRAP Agatha
Christie's evergreen whod. WC2
(0171-836 1443) © Leic Soc.
Mon-Sat 8.00pm, [3] 2.45pm, [7]
5pm, £10-£24.50, 135 mins.

● OKLAHOMA! Maureen Lipman
stars in the National's
acclaimed production of Rodgers
and Hammerstein's cowboy western
musical. Lyric Shakespeare Avenue,
W1 (0171-494 5045) © Picc. Circ. Mon-Sat
7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm, [7] 8pm, £9.50-
£30, 160 mins.

● THE PHANTOM OF THE OPERA
Andrew Lloyd Webber's Gothic
musical. Her Majesty's Haymarket,
SW1 (0171-494 5040/cc 344 4444)
© Picc. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm,
[7] 8pm, £10-£35, 150 mins.

● THE PRISONER OF SECOND
AVENUE Richard Dreyfuss and
Marsha Mason star in Neil Simon's
comedy about a mid-life crisis.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket Hay-
market, SW1 (0171-930 8800)
© Picc. Circ. Mon-Sat 7.45pm, [4] 7.30pm,
[7] 8pm, £10-£32.50.


● RENT Musical inspired by La Bo-
hème and set in modern day New
York. Shaftesbury Theatre, Shaftes-
bury Avenue, WC2 (0171-494 5045)
© Holborn, Mon-Sat 7.30pm, [4] 7.30pm,
[7] 2.30pm, £12.50-£32.50, 160 mins.

● RICHARD III Robert Lindsay stars
as the historical villain. Savoy Strand,
WC2 (0171-836 8888)
cc 836 0479) BR/Wellcome, Mon-Sat
7.30pm, [7] 2.30pm, ends 27 Mar,
£10-£27.50.

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Channel 5

1145 **Crimetalk Angel Flight Down** (Charles Wilkinson 1995)
US. An emergency medical flight team is critically ill right
to hospital crashes in blizzard conditions at Rocky Mountain.
Based on a real event - naturally. Bycatcher regular David Chenail is the only recognizable cast
name (Followed by Weather) (S) (7/27/80).

1145 **Johns BSC News 24** (BSCB/H4-4). To learn.

12,200 Deepsearch Box (26279), 12,30 Open University - The
Pressatonic Statistician: Florence Nightingale (26585), 1,000
the Location Problem (48279), 1,300 Hatching on Comics
1989, 2,200 School - Religious Education (62879), 4,00
4,000 - When German War Business Part 1
(1449), 8,000 Dynamic 100 Search (643257), to 600m

[illegible]

12:45 *FILM Darkness before Dawn* (John Patterson 1992 US). Recovering heroin addict meets prescription drug-addicted woman whose problems stem from childhood abuse. No songs (#6705).

2:00 *FILM Joe Macbeth* (Ken Hughes 1955 UK). "The Scottish play," given a New York cinematic setting (about Roman and St. James (1981)) to 33dAm.

1245 Two (S) (3669811).
140 The Jack Docherty Show. Phil Cornwell and Tony Jarett keep him company (S) (640381).
1:50 Live and Dangerous (2680569). To 440am.

TELEVISION GUIDE BY CHAD GILBERT

FILM OF THE DAY

BROKEN ARROW (9pm CS, *rigid*) Having made his disappointing Hollywood debut with the Jean-Claude Van Damme vehicle *Hard Target*, Hong Kong action-movie stylist John Woo had better luck with this bigger bucks piece of samurai-zang-waller. It stars John Travolta as a highly US AI Force pilot who has nabbed a couple of nuclear warheads – and is up against his old buddy in arms, Christian Slater, in a series of dogfights over the Arizona desert. This kind of bling is always more enjoyable on the big screen, where Woo's amazing kinetics really take flight. Travolta was impressed

